Unique Diversity



2001 Merrillvue

Unique Diversity

Table of Contents

Opening	2
Lifestyles	6
Clubs/Activities	20
Performing Arts	48
People	66
Academics	120
Sports	144
Memories	190
Index	206



John Keily, '04, Michael Cartwright, '04, Joe Hall, '03, and Nicole Petit, '03, walk down the halls each expressing their own "unique diversity."

Unique Diversity

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Enrollment 2043

Unique Diversity



Anna Doko,'02, and Maria Delreal, '03, sit together at lunch in the cafeteria. They are gearing up for their next classes.

Amy Watts,'01, and Liz Balcerak, '01, enjoy a game of Twister during Homecoming class games.

Mrs. Marietta Petras wears her hard hat during Earth Science class. This is just one of the hats she wears as she teaches her classes.

Jillian Swisher, '01, stops by her locker between classes. She takes the time to pick up books for her next class.

Valerie Lipp, '02, twirls her red flag during Color Guard practice.

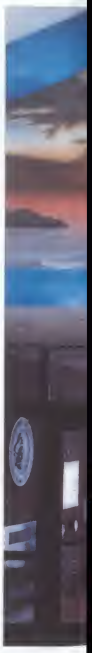
Merrillville High School is the newest definition of "diversity," which is an idea that is unique in and of itself. There exists simultaneously an array of races, styles and academic creativity.

Various styles are scattered throughout the hallways every day, which can also be beneficial to successful interface. Whether you fit into the category of "punk" or "jock," there is always a place for you to feel comfortable and express your individuality.

Students come here from all walks of life. Some families are struggling financially, while others are well-set. Our students are the sons and daughters of blue-collar workers, doctors and lawyers, company presidents and bus drivers. But when it comes to making friends, we choose each other based on our ability to talk to one another, because we can relate to one another.

Through creativity and academics, each and every student contributes to the Merrillville High School community by giving a little piece of himself or herself. People are brought together through their differences, and nothing can be more successful than that.

— MaryAnn Fotis



Theresa Nixon, '02, takes the time to pose for a picture between classes.





Artist Tim Etters from the Odyssey Creations Company painted the mural in the front hall during the 1999-2000 school year. Painting the mural took a lot of patience and time.



Virginia Hughes, '01, completes last minute work and gathers her books before class starts in the morning.



Julia Gil, '01, sits patiently in her Hero class.

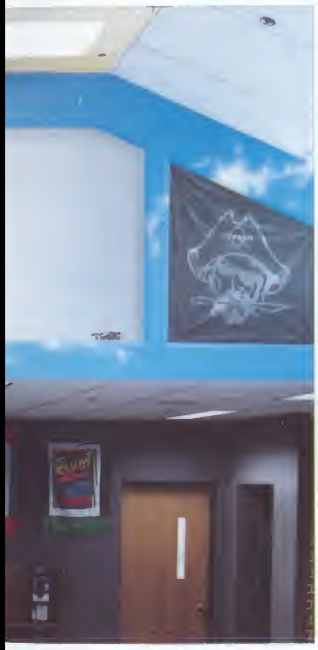


Various sections of the collage painted on the walls in the art loft feature artwork by the students.

Another section of a wall in the art loft features student work.

A student's work hangs in the Dr. Eleanor Lewis Art Gallery located next to the main office.

Diverse Expression



This hall of the mural focuses on our school mascot, the Pirate.



Liz Largent, '01, smiles for the camera during passing period.

Kevin Jolas and Ryan Miller, the school security guards, take a break during a slow period of the day.

Scott Gregory, '02, Riste Ristevski,'01, and Dave Beale, '01, gather outside the cafeteria during lunch.

Tameshia Clark, '02, and Zlatica Goreski, '02, collaborate in cooking class to create a masterpiece.

A group of students sit and talk after eating a balanced meal.



Aaron Rodriguez,'01, Mike Escobedo, '02, and Ricky Augusta, '02, show their school spirit by dressing up for Halloween.

Diverse LifeStyles



Expression is an art, a way of life for most, and the more intense, the better in most cases.

From fashion sense to hair design and cosmetic creativity, students can express themselves uniquely — with a style that is truly their own.

The '90s are gone. Its apparent that styles are toning down a bit at MHS this year. The hairstyles seem more tame, even as we continue to express our individuality. We strive to embrace the many different lifestlyles students have.

Through fashion sense, body art, outrageous sports and school spirit, individuals have ample opportunities to express a quality about themselves that is typically unique. No two people are alike, which keeps everything all the more interesting...Expression at its best!

— MaryAnn Fotis



Reaching his limit, Stuart Guernsey, '03, looks for another hand hold when rock climbing at Omega Sports Complex.



Figuring out a new route to take, Aaron Byczko, '01, Tony Klippel, '03, and John Gutierez, '03, look over the wall's many options

"It's fun," says Tony Klippel, '03, as he climbs across the wall. Climbing often with his friends, Tony enjoys the excitement the sport brings.



New times mean new interests. Football has become too boring and soccer has had its ten minutes of fame. Now with a new generation looking for danger and adventure, rock climbing is one of the new sports that fits the description perfectly.

Rock climbing, grown popular in the past year, offers people something new and exciting. It also keeps athletes in shape.

Stuart Guernsey, '03, climbed so much in the past year that he decided to get a job at Omega Sports Complex, the only place near Merrillville that offers a rock-climbing wall.

Extreme Sports

As this generation continuously strives to be more wild and unique, rock climbing is a way to stand out from the crowd. Some people still just want to have fun. Yet more and more people strive for the extreme and dangerous, trying to go beyond and break the records of what was done before.

Aaron Byczko,'01, said he started to climb because of the challenges of the sport.

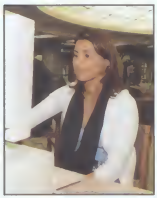
"It looked interesting when I first saw it and I wanted to stay in shape," Byczko said.

Aaron, who also works at Omega, climbs with his brother Jared,'03.

—Megan Brown



Looking things up on Napster is one thing Josh Seabrook, '02, likes to do on his free time, as well as surfing the web for different things.



Lara Dabis, '02, surfs the web to look things up. She loves to use the computer in her spare time.



Putting concentration into his work, Joey Johnson, '02, shows his great effort. He enjoys coming into the library for research puposes.



MHS students are all drawn to the Internet. They use the computers in the library in hope of finding whatever they desire.

E-mail, chat, research, Napster

Internet craze takes hold of students and faculty



Vanessa Hrebenyak, '01, focuses on finding information from the world of dot com for her research paper.

MHS students are using the Internet for e-mail, chat, research, Napster, and many other interesting things as well.

The real question is, what do more students use it for? Is it the new Napster, or is it best for research papers? Considering some of the students at MHS and the Internet teacher, both of these things seem to be popular.

Vanessa Hrebenyk, '01, believes the best thing about Internet is looking up data for research papers. She definitely believes Napster is a good thing. She uses it to listen to alternative music, like from Q101.

Josh Seabrook, '02, believes that Napster is a good thing. He likes listening to all kinds of music on it, especially Eminem.

"The best thing about Napster is that it's free," Josh said.

Josh said he enjoys using the Internet to find Cliff Notes for English class. He said he finds it a lot easier than buying the book.

Not only do the students believe that Internet is a positive thing for MHS, but Mr. Bob Bergeson, the Internet teacher, said the Internet is awesome for the school. Bergeson believes that one of the great assets of the Internet is the easy access to outside information for research.

Even though Internet has brought these great things to the school, to every positive thing comes something negative. Bergeson believes the most negative thing on the Internet is the amount of junk, including pornography.

"I enjoy teaching this class because it is innovative, and I also am amazed to see what's out there," Bergeson said.

—Irene Kourtesis

Feeling the Spirit

Students at MHS go all out to show their purple pride. Everyone knows that pep is one of the most important keys to success. It not only motivates, but it encourages our students to be the very best.

Everywhere in the halls is a display of school spirit. Cheerleaders and the Pep Club decorate lockers before a big event. Others sit on the sidelines, cheering on friends and teammates.

It is not only students, but who teachers are also actively involved. Mr. Tom Feeney, a math teacher, says he is full of Pirate Pride. At times he says he bleeds purple. He dedicates much of his free time to working the football games on Friday nights, and coaching middle school cross country since 1973.

> **Mr. Feeney . . . is full of Pirate Pride. At times he says he bleeds purple.**

Also thanks to Ms. Marcie Mathis, MHS initiated a Pep Club during the 2000-2001 school year. Club members are dedicated to helping motivate students. Mathis' goal is to get more students involved in helping teams and clubs that don't get as much recognition.

Many people are responsible for encouraging students at MHS. It goes from students, to teachers, to school administrators. All in all, pep is the key to success at MHS.

— Angela Escobedo





Chris Wisner, '02, adds a little bass to the invigorating sound of the MHS Marching band.



"Smack the Pack" was this year's theme for the football's Homecoming Parade.







Chris Gough, '01, gets a bit messy as he slides through the pudding on his stomach.

Amy Petry, '03, comes up for air as she competes in the class pie eating contest.

Embarrassment has nothing to do with the class games as these students strive to earn points for their class.





These girls go from having two legs to three as they race for the finish line.

Cheerleaders use many different tactics to encourage both fans and players at sporting events.



At football games it's always good to see students cheering on their fellow classmates.

Is there pep left at MHS?

We have some pep in the school, but it could be a lot better. We need to build it up!

Amy Petry, '03

V S

There's not enough pep in the school. No one really cares anymore. People have just given up.

Chris Gough, '01



Both Josh Stevens, '02, and Matt Bishop, '02, try to copy the styles of Coal Chamber.

When people reminisce about the '60s, the first things that come to their heads are the Beatles, bell-bottoms and peace.

Disco, John Travolta and Charlie's Angels ruled the '70s.

The '80s were about rock 'n roll, partying and punk.

We are now in the first year of the new millennium, and diversity is at its peak. Anything goes. In the future people will look back and have a difficult time making broad generalizations.

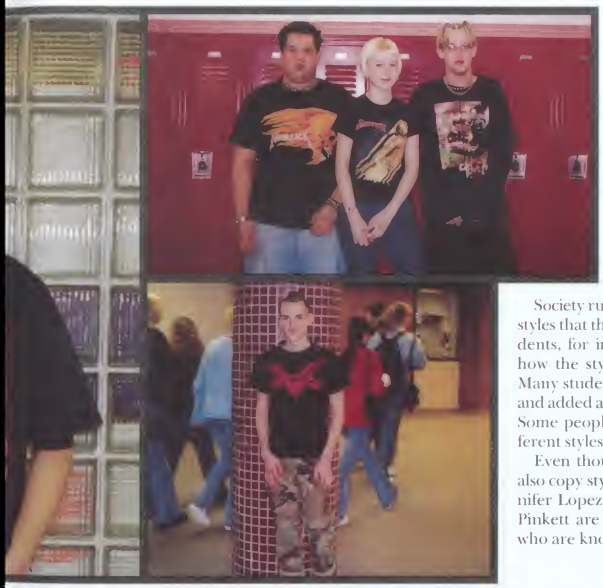
Big hits came from many different places. Successful artists varied anywhere from boy bands such as N'sync and 98^{0} to rappers like Eminem, Dr. Dre, Korn and Blink 182. Britney Spears and Eve also made it big this year. The Latin sound made a huge boom with the help of well-known singers like Christina Aguilera and Enrique Iglesias.



Courtney Smith, '01, definitely has his own great sense of style.



Look out, N'SYNC! These boys may not sing as well as the popular stars, but they can dress better.



Joe Llano, '02, Anna Doko, '02, and Curt Herzog, '01, portray more of the grunge look, which has also been big this year.

Many students were sporting camouflage and army gear this year. Camouflage and army boots were a major part of Sean Mygrants, '03, outfit.

Society rushed to mimic the many different styles that these people have made. MHS students, for instance, are a major example of how the styles of the elite affect everyone. Many students have copied a celebrity's style and added a little twist to make their own style. Some people have even taken a couple different styles and intertwined them.

Even though it is not as common, people also copy styles from movies and actors. Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Phillippe and Jada Smith Pinkett are among the actors and actresses who are known for unique styles.

—Dena Panayi

diversity In the future
people will look back
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making broad generalizations.

Diverse Style

Kristina Damjanoska, '03, and Brittany Cobb, '02, have impeccable taste in apparel. They both portray the preppy and conservative look.



Steven Schaab, '01, has managed to take the clothing from Freddie Krueger and his hair from Pinhead of the movie Hellraiser. He has definitely made a style all his own.





Turtlenecks, sweaters and tech vests, such as the one's that Alex Vasileski, '01, and Paul Kosteski, '01, are wearing, were "in."



Vince Manara, '01, has potential to be the next designer for Iceberg. He always matches from head to toe and has yet to wear the same outfit twice.

There is no doubt that Jennifer Turoci, '01, has Gwen Stefani's look and taste.



Steven Goin, '01, might as well be a model for Dolce & Gabbana or Gucci. He enjoys expensive clothing and wears it with such grace and style.





Even though, Serreana Jackson, '01, has her own style, she loves Foxy Brown's awesome style.



Jenniter Lopez is the idol of Tiffany Alleman, '02. Tiffany wears attire that resembles what Jennifer wears.



Everyone look, it's Eminem! Oops, that's not Eminem, it's his look-a-like, Brian Fravel, '03.

TATTOOS OR PIERCINGS?



"I won't get anything tattooed on my body that I don't draw."
Neil Kaslak, '01



"Tigger always has a lot of energy, like me; and somewhere along the line he goofs up."
Mr. John Jennings



"It shows my individuality."
Colleen Regan, '02



"I was bored."
Josh Elam, '03



"I saw them and I liked them."
Mike McLindon, '01



"I think it's pretty and it has become apart of me."
Lauren Nuzzo, '02



" I lose the ball bearings alot, but no freak accident stories, like going to the emergencey room with my face stuck in some girl's braces."
Dan Mola, '01





"The first day my tongue was extremely big. It was hard to enunciate."
Taelor Palmateer, '02



"I'm a goofy person to begin with. It's a part of my personality."
Mr. Don Baron



"I like the reaction I get from others."
April Ramirez, '02



"When I finally went to get my tattoo, it took too long and the place was ready to close for the night. I waited three weeks to go back, and the place had shut down."
Mr. James Young

Ever wonder who has what? You would be surprised to learn who has a tattoo, piercing or both. Tattoos and piercings have become more socially acceptable and are viewed as a form of uniqueness and self expression. People use tattoos and piercings as a way of separating themselves from everyone else. Many students and faculty who have tattoos chose a symbol or drawing that means something to them. Their tattoos and piercings are part of who they are. Here they talk about their experiences and inspiration.

—Jessica Moreno

"They were the way I felt most of the time. Sometimes I was just bored. I just think of something tight and I get it."
Courtney Smith, '01





"When I was in seventh grade, I saw a picture of a tongue piercing in a magazine, and that lead to the rest of the piercings."
Misti Dugger, '01







Students in Mrs. Lewis' fourth hour class show their school spirit by forming an "M" during the competition for the purplest fourth hour. Student Government sponsored this contest during Basketball Homecoming Week.



Diverse Clubs & Activities



Most of our clubs and activities are centered on or around the community, and some of them even develop ways of improving and contributing to it.

With our annual food drives, nursing home visitations and dances, MHS clubs try to benefit people in the community. Unique people develop unique ideas, and put them together in such a way to help benefit everyone.

Some clubs cater to special interests such as foreign languages and creative writing.

Others get a sense of satisfaction by helping those less fortunate of our society, such as Key Club. Everyone contributes in their own special way.

—Mary Ann Fotis

Cool tall temperatures do little to deter students from coming to the Friday night games. This group of seniors bundled up and came out to cheer on the Pirates at the Homecoming football game.



Homecoming Queen candidates show their legs off as they smile for the camera. The night was full of excitement and curiosity for the six seniors.



Casady Pruitt, '03, shows her spirit in the class games as she participates in the pie-eating contest. Students participated in many games, but the pie-eating contest was the most popular of them all.



Ashie Coleman, Amy Watts, Kyle Vrotny and Erik Price, all '01, sing the National Anthem at the Homecoming game. All four students have been involved in choir throughout high school.





Lindsey Lubovich, '01, and Billy Cardin dance in each other's arms during the Homecoming Dance. Many students enjoy this part of the dance.



Renee Ramos, '01, smiles for the camera as she is crowned Homecoming Queen. She was both surprised and excited to be named Queen.

A Chance to Show our Spirit!

For many students, their favorite week out of the year is Spirit Week.

Students and faculty showed their spirit in many different ways, such as dressing in pajamas, wearing their favorite hat, dressing up in their Sunday best, wearing their class color, and of course, wearing the traditional purple and white.

On Thursday before the big game, MHS was filled with fun. The Homecoming Parade, from Clifford Pierce Middle School back to the high school, featured floats and cars that had been decorated by members of extra-curricular clubs and classes.

After the parade the class games began. The students who came out to participate in the games thought the games were fun and entertaining.

After a long week of showing school spirit, Friday finally came.

"We were pumped for the game against Michigan City," said Mike Mays, '01.

During half time Jason Nolan, '01, was announced as the Pirates' 2001 Mr. Football.

The candidates for Homecoming Queen were also escorted out to the middle of the field by their parents. Homecoming Queen candidates included Renee Ramos, Meredith Lucas, Ashlie Coleman, Nicole Sweeney, Amanda Diehl and Cheryl Hoagland, all '01.

As Ramos was crowned Homecoming queen, the crowd yelled and clapped with excitement.

"I was really surprised and excited when I heard my name called," said Ramos.

Students from all grades celebrated at the "Tropical Paradise" themed Homecoming Dance

—Meghan Mauman



Steve Cooper, MHS graduate and Jenniter Jackowski, '02, sit down to rest from dancing. While they were sitting, they watch many of their friends dance and have fun.



Shining a



Crystal Matson, '03, Justin Hall, '04, Jenniter Brusven, '04, all pose for the camera. They all had lots of fun at Turnabout.



Laurie Farver, '01, Dee Neylon, '02, and Tina Coburn, '02, stood in a huddle to converse about how their night is going.



Christine Barnack, Nicole Lagalo, Phil Komisarcik, Lisa Natywa and Natalie Weall, all '04, pose for the camera. They were all happy to be at the Turnabout Dance.

After a while, it's time to take off the shoes and really let the hair down. Nicole Pounds and Jennifer Turoci, both '01, dance to the sound of great club music.



Light on Turnabout





Melissa Ramirez, '01, and Joe Mohr enjoy each other's company as they cuddle during a slow dance.

Tom Hancock, '01, and Deborah Hawkins, '02, pose for the camera as they share a quiet moment at the dance.



Lacie Hacker, '01, enjoys the evening with her date, Merrillville High School alumnus, David Mesarch.

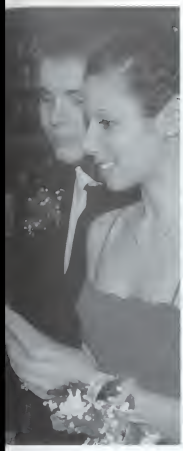




Josh Kester, '02, and Zack Pearman, '02, hold their dates from Andrean close at the Valentine's Dance.



Janice Smith, '01, and Joe Gregory, '01, dance hand in hand, romantically close as they savor the last dance.



Heather McCoy, '03, Keith Roy, '01, and Katie Montalbano,'04, share a moment during the Valentine's Dance.



Lisette Renta, '03, fixes her hair as she waits in line for her picture to be taken with her date, Tom Gonzalez.



Stacey Harreld, '01, and Kevin Koves, '01, smile for the camera, as they share a night of romance and fun.



Valentine's Dance

With the cafeteria decorated in traditional red and white, students of all grades enjoyed themselves at this year's Valentines Dances.

On February 9, the first of two Valentine's dances was held. This dance gave special education students an opportunity to dance and socialize.

Then, February 10, MHS students from all grades were invited to share a special night with that special someone.

"Creating a school activity that students will enjoy and remember as a highlight of their school year is the most special part of holding the Valentines Dance," commented Ms. Carol VonBehren.



Ms. Carol VonBehren

VonBehren, along with the other Family and Consumer Science Department teachers, were in charge of sponsoring the dance and decorating the cafeteria.

—Meghan Mauman

Mike Cobb, MHS '00, and Adara Foree, '01, take a rest from dancing as they talk with some friends.

Jenniter Garcia, '02, Sean Mitchell, '03, Elizabeth Elder, '03, Reginald Holt, '02, Jennifer Fizer, '02, and Bruce Blue, '01, pose for the camera as they wait patiently for the Grand March to begin.







Jillian Kucik and Brian Yack, both '02, dance the night away.



Melissa Sanchez, '02, and her date take a moment to smile for the camera. Many students had fun with dates from other schools.

Prom King Chris Gabriel and Queen Brittany Cobb, both '02, enjoy a moment of pure bliss as their names are announced at the Grand March.





Rachel Hammond, '02, Cory Burkus, MHS '00, Jennifer Sierra, '02, Adam Deel, MHS '00, Samantha Grzesik, Mario Sims, Kelly Polster and Allen Bobowsky, all '02, wait for the signal to begin the climb up the stairs for the Grand March.



Melissa Stewart, '02, dances with Phillip Schicker, CPHS '01. More than 300 couples enjoyed Prom this year.

This I Promise You

High school prom brings images of fancy dresses and limos galore.

This year's 2001 prom theme, "This I Promise You," portrayed "more of a romantic setting instead of a casual, friendship mood," said Jennifer Christoff, '01.

"The theme sets the mood for an evening of dancing and fun," Christoff noted.

This year, the prom committee decided to choose a different prom site, hosting prom at the new Avalon Manor reception hall.

"It's elegant and bigger," said Mrs. Beth Gillespie.

Prom colors of lavender, seafoam green and silver created a fairytale atmosphere.

However, not all prom traditions changed. The Grand March was still held in the Hall of Flags, where the king and queen were crowned. Parents and friends attended the ceremony and took pictures of the promgoers.

Prom is an experience with memories that will last forever.

—Megan Brown



Joe Mustafa, Lisa Newell, both '02, Dan Niksch, '01, and Carol Newell, '04, pose for the camera between songs.

Basketball Homecoming



Monday

Jon Byerly, '01, and Mike McLindon, '01, talk in the halls during passing period. The senior boys' show their school spirit by dressing up in their class color, black.



Tuesday

Amy Pivovarnik, '01, sits comfortably in the hall taking a test. Pajama Day is Pivovarnik's favorite day of Spirit Week.



Wednesday

Aimee Plukas, Jessica Gonzales, and Flora Nuses, all '02, help each other out in Math class. All three girls show school spirit by wearing their college sweatshirts.

A walk through the halls of MHS during the week of Feb.5 found many students with "Homecoming Spirit." On Monday students dressed in their class colors. Tuesday was Pajama Day. Wednesday was College Sports Apparel Day. Thursday was Hat Day. And Friday was Purple and White Day.

On Friday, fourth hour study periods were encouraged to show their spirit by decorating their classrooms in purple. Mrs. Draper's class showed the most spirit and won the competition.

"We had a lot of fun creating our beach theme for the most spirited classroom. Byzcko (Aaron) even wore my bikini top to help us win the spirit competition!" said Renee Ramos,'01.

Friday was a big day. The boys' Basketball Team won the DAC championship, Kristi Heflin,'01, was crowned Queen, and Andy Pawlowski,'01, won the Mr. Hot Legs competition.

"I didn't think I would win. I didn't even hear them call my name. I was very excited and surprised once I realized I won!" commented Kristie.

Mr. Hot Legs was glad he finally decided to enter the competition.

"I was afraid to join the competition because I had an embarrassing dream that someone would pull down my pants during the competition," Andy Pawlowski said.

"In the end, I was happy I won because I learned that even though I have hairy legs, I'm still dead sexy," he said.

—Liz Balcerak



Irene Menchaca, '01, Nicole Sweeney, '01, Meredith Lucas, '01, Kristi Heflin, '01, Amanda Diehl, '01, and Amy Watts, '01were all very excited to be nominees of Baksetball Homecoming. All the girls were very happy for Homecoming Queen, Kristi Heflin.

The Pirate mascot dances around at the Homecoming Basketball game to get the crowd going. Jett Roth, '01, is the man hiding under the Pirate mask.



Andy Pawlowski, '01, shows his excitement to the crowd after winning the Mr. Hot Legs Competition. Pawlowski was the crowd's overwhelming favorite.





Thursday

Heather McCoy, '03, stands patiently in line waiting for her lunch. Heather shows her spirit by wearing her favorite hat.



Friday

Alysia Forteney, '03, Michele Phillips, '03, and Katie Montalbano, '04 strike a pose in the hall on Purple and White Day. The girls were decked out to help their class win the most spirited classroom.



Students show their spirit as they point out the score to show the other team who the winning team is. The crowd rushed the floor when the Pirates won the DAC championship.



Game Night

A group of senior girls show spirit at the Basketball Homecoming game. The girls, dressed in tanktops with Pirates spelled out, chanted cheers to encourage the Basketball Team to win the DAC championship.

Clubs



Kasey Samson, '01, paints an exciting image upon a young girl's face during this year's fun fair sponsored by the Key Club.

Bring diverse students together

What better way to meet diverse people with similar interests than by joining a club? Students join clubs to share fun experiences and to create memories.

"The purpose of clubs is to provide activities that interest students. Also, to bring students 'out of their shells' and give them a chance to prove leadership and display their strengths," stated Mrs. Beverly Ambrosiak.

"Being in Academic Superbowl is very beneficial," said Megan Brown, '02. "We are able to learn a lot and expand our horizons on various subjects."

For example, members of the Spell Bowl and English Superbowl teams did so well this year that they advanced to the state competition. Also, for the first time, four MHS seniors competed in the Indiana Economic Challenge and placed second in the Real Life Division.

Not only can clubs bring people together, but they can be very helpful to students in their lives after high school. Clubs help teach the responsibility and teamwork needed in order to be successful in the "real world."

Certain clubs, such as Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Student Government, and Key Club, are known for the excellent fundraisers and activities that they sponsor. This year SADD sponsored a walk-a-thon that raised $2,900 for the St. Jude House.

New this year was the Key Club's carnival for elementary school students that raised money for Camp Riley. Members also participated in the March of Dimes walk, sold Kiwanis' peanuts and raked leaves for senior citizens.

The foreign language clubs help students open their minds to the different cultures of the world. For example, members of the Spanish Club love to go to Mexican restaurants and learn about the Spanish way of life. At Christmas the German, Spanish and French Clubs party together and share their cultures. The French Club has taken a step further this year by only speaking French at their meetings. This allows the students to become more comfortable with the language and better acquainted with the culture.

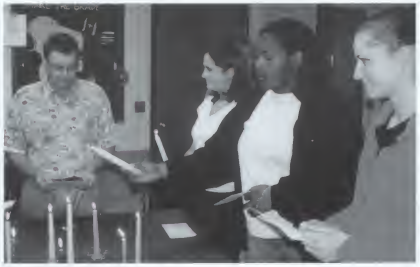
— Dena Panayi





Getting your hands full of gooey candy is part of the fun of working with cotton candy. Louis Zamora, '03, and Lorin Barman, '02, had this pleasant task during the first fun fair sponsored by the Key Club. Elementary school students were invited to play games and enjoy goodies during this afterschool event in March.





Lighting candles during the Quill and Scroll induction ceremony are Ken Badylak, '01, Liz Balcerak, '01, Ebonee Pace, '01, and Aubrey Brainard, '03. Quill and Scroll is an international organization that recognizes the accomplishments of student journalists. Each inductee pledges to live up to the ideals of true journalism.



Julia Roames,'03, Kryssi Fleck, '02, Amanda Panning, '02, Sarah Kennedy, '03, Randy Brodner, '01, and Mrs. Edie Fisher munch on coffeecake during one of their bi-weekly breakfast meetings. The members say that many of their activities revolve around their love for food. Members are currently planning a June 2002 trip to Germany.



Senior Class President Robert Perez conducts a meeting with all class officers to discuss strategies for the future. Perez said his goal was to improve the leadership skills of the officers and to bring the groups together.



Dan Lexa, '01, Erika Jones, '02, Lara Dabis, '02, Darnell Cole, '01, Miss Irene Spiro, Kristine Dabu, '01, and Vanessa Assibey- Mensah, '02, enjoy dinner at Café Fondue. Sponsor Miss Spiro regularly plans outings for the French Club at local restaurants.



Tom Spitzer and Bryon Williams, '02, are the technical directors working on a local PNN cable show.

Amy Petry, '03, Sondra Lazoski, '02, and Wade McKinley, '03, run the tapes, cameras, and graphics for the morning announcements





Josh Seabrook, '02, edits a video for PNN's Presidents' Day segment.



Julie Seagraves, '02, works the teleprompter for the PNN morning announcements.



Josh Seabrook, '02, puts microphones on Liz Balcerak and Meredith Lucas, both '01, for a PNN yearbook commercial

Pirate News Network















One of the most powerful organizations at Merrillville High School is the Pirate News Network, a.k.a. PNN.

Run by Tom Spitzer, PNN presents live morning announcements for the students and a radio station during the lunch hours.

Every month the truly dedicated students produce a cable show for the local area, featuring local sports, local activies and recent events in the schools and community.

Pleasing the students with music and a weekly cable show isn't easy work though. Armed with a few digital cameras and a newly aquired Avio Casablanca digital editor, PNN produces some of the best programs on Cable Access.

— Adam Milicevic



Morning Announcement Crew: Krystal Roberts Gonzalez, '03, Carey Ruckman, '02, Renee Ramos, '01, Elena Gonzalez, '02, Julie Seagraves, '02, and Wade McKinley, '03, Amy Petry, '03, David Perry, '02, Brandon Dravet, '01, Amanda McIntire, '03.

The students' cheerleaders finish spelling out "Pirates" with their bodies on the gym floor. Cheerleaders help to energize the crowd during the game.



Merrillville Community School Corporation Superintendent Dr. Tony Lux concentrates as he shoots a jump shot from the left side of the court. Dr. Lux lead his team in rebounds.





Darnell Blackmon, '01, goes in for an easy two points for the students. The staff won the game for the third straight year.



The staff cheerleaders stand on the sidelines cheering on their friends and co-workers. At half time, the cheerleaders spelled out "Go Staff" with placards.



Senior Brandon Beller shoots a three during the Student-Faculty Basketball Game.





Ricky Holtz guards Mr. Tim James, but Mr. James is determined to get by the guard and score for the staff.

Students Battle Teachers

As Merrillville comes to the end of the school year, the students and teachers plan an activity to keep stress down before finals.

Each year a handful of seniors sign up to compete against their teachers in the Student-Faculty Basketball Game. In order for the students to play, the students have to have good attendance. Game rules do not allow spring athletes or varsity basketball players to participate.

"I was surprised to be picked to play," said Ricky Holtz, '01. "I know that a lot of students signed up to play against their teachers."

At one point in the game, the students had seven players on the floor and the teachers had five, yet the sudents still managed to lose to the teachers by a score of 43-24.

"The Student-Faculty Game was fun, but I wish we would have won," said Ben Daniel, '01.

Daniel was one of the students' coaches for the Student-Faculty Basketball game, along with Scott Smoljan and Dan Niksch, both '01. Mr. Zac Wells and Mr. Sheldon Floyd led the teachers' team.

"I think we should host a Student/Faculty Game in the beginning of the year to show the tight bond the teachers have with their students," said Mr. Floyd.

The referees for the game were teachers Miss Lori Dust and Mr. Jim Johnston, and students Bruce Blue and Mark Megyesi, both '01.

At halftime of the game, a battle raged between the senior and faculty cheerleaders. The senior cheerleaders spelled out "Pirates" with their bodies and the faculty spelled "Go Staff" with signs.

The highlight of the game for Sarita Ayala, '02, came at half-time when her free throw shot won her $25.

— Kortina Gates



Mr. Eric Olton finds the floor to be quite comfortable after battling the students. Fouls were frequent during the game, and the staff often found themselves looking up.

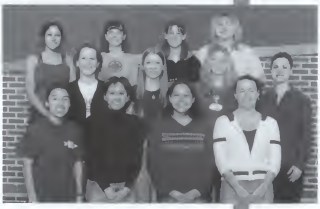
Key Club
Sponsor: Mr. Rob Bedwell
Row 1: Amanda Vargo, Adrienne Best
Row 2: Valerie Lipp, Rob Huish, Paul Best, Kasey Samson
Row 3: Kelly Samson, Erika Villarreal



Creative Writing Club
Sponsor: Mr. John Lambersie
Row 1: Koree Thomas, Jacqueline Lipski, Tina Elkins, Lauren Pena
Row 2: Aaron Hebert, Philip Knotts, Jennifer Christoff, Josh Crosby
Row 3: Mr. John Lambersie, Robert Banks, Joseph Ameling, Bret Sager



Students Against Destructive Decisions
Sponsor: Mrs. Lisa Schilling
Row 1: Jennifer Ramirez, Jessica Moreno, Kristine Dabu, Patricia Harris
Row 2: Amanda Diehl, Christy Cvetan, Nicole Sweeney, Mrs. Lisa Schilling
Row 3: Radhika Dave, Lauren Hacker, Lacie Hacker, Erika Jones



We're In This Together
Sponsor: Mrs. Viveca Carter
Row 1: Damara Hamlin, Cheryl Perkins, Jocelyn Blanchard, Adara Foree, Vincent Manara
Row 2: Samaria Thompson, Schenell McClendon, Ashley Suggs, Arlinda Nava-McCain
Row 3: Kristi Heflin, Suad Abdullah, Kendall Jefferson, Casby Williams, Paul Best
Row 4: Mrs. Viveca Carter



Natural Helpers
Sponsor: Mr. Jerry Kasarda
Row 1: Jane Lee, Cheryl Perkins, Chia Chiang
Row 2: Jessica Brown, Sara Valdez, Chauntese Williams, Mr. Jerry Kasarda
Row 3: Amanda Wojtysiak, Lauren Hacker, Armalita Muro, Tristen Congress





Helping Education Reach Occupations

Sponsor: Ms. Carol VonBehren
Row 1: Julia Gil, Katie Beville, Christina Walls, Markeyla Martin, Dana English
Row 2: Karina Gomez, Mandy Komenda, Karyl Willison, Crystal Woolwine
Row 2: Jessica Todd, Tiffany Shelton. Holly Walsh, Marquita Dennis, Michelle Janeski
Row 4: Joe Utofka, Brandon Pierson, David Lee



Future Educators of America

Sponsor: Ms. Monica Burgos
Tiffany Sajdera, Ms. Monica Burgos, Melissa Ramirez, Michelle Merkelis



Family Career & Community Leaders of America

Sponsor: Ms. Carol VonBehren
Row 1: Demetria Massengill, Melissa Robinson, Katie O'Brien, Emily Graun
Row 2: Abby Hacker, Julika Barthel, Lauren Hacker
Row 3: Shaina Tucker, Chris Nahlik, Lacie Hacker



Newspaper Staff

Adviser: Mrs. Teresa Procter
Row 1: Megan Brown, MaryAnn Fotis, Cole Perkins, Aubrey Brainard, Ebonée Pace
Row2: Ken Badylak, Ricky Holtz, Adam Milicevic, Roy Wilbanks



Color Guard

Sponsor: Ms. Jody Zowodni
Row 1: Rachael Pitifer, Lisa Natywa, Damara Hamlin, Jessica Brown, Diana Quintanilla, Angela De Jesus, Dikah Joyner
Row 2: Kasee Smith, Kaye Smith, Shannan Kimbrough, Jennifer Ruschak, Tiffany Gallegos, Melissa Ramirez, Brittney Stoica
Row 3: Christine Barnack, Patrice Selmon, Schmekia Hinton, Jennifer Reid, Lauren Homola, Aubrey Szany
Row 4: Laurie Farver, Valerie Lipp, Katie Wilson, Kelly Samson, Karen Davis

Spell Bowl

Sponsor: Mrs. Evelyn Steiner
Row 1: Damara Hamlin, Hsin Chiang, Marisa Valdez, Chia Chiang
Row 2: Jenny Heidler, Jane Lee, Jonathan Warus, Mrs. Evelyn Steiner, Randy Johnson
Row 3: Ryan Miller, Guille Dabu, Dathan Echols, Adam Lewis



Academic Decathlon

Sponsors: Mr. Scott Staley and Mrs. Dee Edgcomb
Row 1: Hsin Chiang, Markeyta Martin, Chia Chiang
Row 2: Tracy Woynaroski, Jane Lee, Michelle Merkelis, Dathan Echols
Row 3: Bret Sager, Mr. Scott Staley, Nathanael Reynolds



Quiz Bowl

Sponsor: Mrs. Mariam Taha
Adam Lewis and Dathan Echols



Science Olympiad

Sponsors: Ms. Michelle Barker and Mrs. Maryetta Petras
Row 1: Tracy Woynaroski, Jane Lee, Julie Lesniak
Row 2: Radhika Dave, Lisa Ross, Mrs. Maryetta Petras, Ms. Michelle Barker
Row 3: Caleb Bateman, Andrew Leicht, Gregory Ross, Tom Dobes



Super Bowl

Sponsors: Mrs. Evelyn Steiner and Mr. Craig Stafford
Row 1: Hsin Chiang, Marisa Valdez, Chia Chiang
Row 2: Mr. Craig Stafford, Jane Lee, Sharon Hawkins, Mrs. Evelyn Steiner
Row 3: Marissa Vawter, Kate Czubik, Brandon McVade
Row 4: Adam Lewis, Dathan Echols





Dramatic Society

Sponsor: Mrs. Beverley Seaver
Row 1: Chas Reilly, Delia Neylon, Laurie Farver, Matthew Cunningham, Melissa Kish, Mandy Elser, Kyle Vrotny, Cliff Golon, Chris Drapeau
Row 2: Reggie Holt, Jon Jasinski, Jonathan Warus, Laura Lackey, Emily Mandich, Tina Coburn, Kristen Snyder, Irene Kourtesis, Diana Hughes, Damara Hamlin, Jeannie Hughes, Melissa Gray, Mrs. Beverley Seaver
Row 3: Samantha Sullivan, Melissa Duttweiler, Kathleen Hyzy, Cindy Wahlman, Courtney Albright, Kasey Samson, Amy Pivovarnik, Kristine Dabu, Katie Floyd, Molly Draper, Robert Richards
Row 4: Jaime Ortiz, Jeff Zweig, Stephanie Hall, Katie Wilson, Kate Czubik, Kristofer Dabu, Lauren Strom, Peter Gaines, Lacie Hacker
Row 5: Mike Zelisko, Heather Phillippe Nicole Birmingham, Jeffrey Roth, Jon Wargo, Jack Neylon, Lauren Hacker, Caleb Bateman, Ashely McNeil, Robert Banks



French Club

Sponsor: Ms. Irene Spiro
Row 1: Erika Jones, Nilaja Neely, Darnell Cole Jr, Kristine Dabu, Kristina Coburn
Row 2: Damara Hamlin, Cynthia Gonzalez, Julie Lesniak, Casady Prultt, Christine Aloia
Row 3: Tricia Harris, Vanessa Assibey-Mensah, Kristina Damjanoska, Maegan McPhee
Row 4: Ms. Irene Spiro, Kathleen Szot, Felicia Parks, Dathan Echols, Nathan Harris



Spanish Club

Sponsor: Mrs. Mary Ann Bertram
Row 1: Cassandra Garner, Mrs. Mary Ann Bertram, Krissy Jackomis, Becky Stites
Row 2: Darnell Cole Jr., Mitchell Aubuchon, Jeremy Greene



German Club

Sponsor: Mrs. Edie Fisher
Row 1: Sarah Kennedy, Kryssi Fleck
Row 2: Caitlin Floyd, Amanda Panning
Row 3: Mrs. Edie Fisher, Randy Brodner, Martin Cole



Senior Class Government

Sponsor: Ms. Carrie Miller
Row 1: Lacie Hacker, Melissa Ramirez, Kristine Dabu
Row 2: Lauren Hacker, Nicole Sweeney, Amanda Diehl, Christy Cvetan
Row 3: Ben Daniel, Tiffany Sajdera, Aaron Rodriguez

Student Government Officers

Sponsor Mrs. Betty Barsley-Marra
Row 1: Jeannie Hughes, Kristine Dabu, Maya Rothstein
Row 2: Erika Jones, Amanda Diehl, Austin Floyd



Student Government

Sponsor: Mrs. Betty Barsley-Marra
Row 1: Erika Jones, Jeannie Hughes, Amanda Diehl, Kristine Dabu, Maya Rothstein, Austin Floyd
Row 2: Damara Hamlin, Diane Hughes, Mandy Gonzalez, Jasmine Dayon, Sammy Grzesik, Jonathan Warus, Nicole Halkias, Hara Halkias
Row 3: Nicole Stompor, Christine Alola, Tricia Harris, Molly Burt, Sharon DeLaCruz, Nicole Sweeney, Lauren Hacker
Row 4: Lara Dabis, Tiffany Sajdera, Carol Newell, Jessica Cooper, Nathan Pritchard, Robert Perez, Jenny Heidler
Row 5: Andrew Leicht, Mrs. Betty Barsley-Marra, Gregory Ross, Guille Dabu, Randy Johnson, Aaron Rodriguez



National Honor Society

Sponsor: Mrs. Maggie Stallings
Row 1: Mike Mays, Randy Brodner, Bret Sager, Austin Floyd
Row 2: Jeannie Hughes, Hsin Chiang, Kim Smith, Marsia Valdez, Mandy Gonzalez, Renee Ortega, Samaria Thompson
Row 3: Jessica Shotts, Kristine Dabu, Jessica Gross, Patrica Harris,Nathan Pritchard, Laura Horwith, Aimee Ruder, Armalita Muro, Michelle Merkelis
Row 4: Meredith Lucas, Katherine Castro, Christy Cvetan, Amanda Diehl, Nicole Sweeney, Melissa Kish, Christina Damjanoski, Crystal Croson
Row 5: Stacey Harreld, Leslie Kleminski, Kendall Jefferson, Tiffany Sajdera, Jeffrey Roth, Kevin Koves, Lacie Hacker, Jason McGee, Mike Zelisko
Row 6: Nick Graves, Mike Muvceski, Nick Hidalgo, Alan Azcona, Kim Krizman, Mitchell Aubuchon, Tom Hancock, Darnell Cole, Nebojsa Copic



Senior Class Members

Sponsor: Ms. Carrie Miller
Row 1: Stacey Harreld, Robert Perez, Melissa Kish, Melissa Ramirez
Row 2: Jeannie Hughes, Jamie Nelson, Jennifer Ramirez, Kristine Dabu, Christie Kamanaroff
Row 3: Christina Damjanoski, Nicole Sweeney, Crystal Croson
Row 4: Ms. Carrie Miller, Amy Pivovarnik, Kevin Koves, Aaron Rodriguez
Row 5: Austin Floyd, Bret Sager



Class Officers 2002

Sponsor: Ms. Courtney Hardin
Row 1: Jessica Gonzalez, Maegan McPhee, Ms. Courtney Hardin, Tamara Bowen
Row 2: Jason Giordano, Dathan Echols, Chris Gabriel





Class of 2003

Sponsor: Mrs. Maggie Stallings
Jenny Heidler, Damara Hamlin, Diane Hughes, Dave Rooda



Class Officers 2004

Sponsor: Mr. Don Baron
Randy Johnson, Rico Suave, Bernard Beard, Lauren Jones



Inspirational Choir

Sponsor: Mr. Sheldon Floyd
Row1: Cheryl Perkins, Kaye Smith, Carmellia Hinton
Row2: Liz Henderson, Jennifer Reid, Monique Emmons, Schmekia Hinton
Row4: Casby Williams, Mr. Sheldon Floyd, Paul Best
Row4: Breeon Rodgers, Terrance Campbell, Tito Savage



Varsity Choir

Sponsor: Mr. Roger Emig
Row 1: Rosalinda Sanchez, Tara Johnson, Marsheena Kendrick, Samantha Yurechko, Katherine Montalbano, Lisa Graf, Lisa Natywa, Megan Sobierajski, Katie Lindsey, Jennifer Agoris
Row 2: Taura Black, Tanya Tansil, Tiffany Potts, Christel Sumichrast, Megan Diaz, Samantha Loo, Rebecca Ternes, Christina Davis, Malorie Brummet, Pauline Katsouros
Row 3: Jodi Suggs, Chardaa Wright, Brittiney Blue, Kristina Covarrubias, Rebecca Longacre, Megan Kors, Nicole Dominguez, Amanda Wojtysiak, Taleia Powell
Row 4: Courtney Miano, Candice Howard Lavashia Conner, Erica Leonos, Kelly Simanson, Missy Paniaguas, Nadja Anderson, Blair Amelse, Cathryn Stupic



Concert Choir

Sponsor: Mr. Roger Emig
Row 1: Elexas Wise, Reggie Holt, Scott Shelhart, Brandon Sharp, Lindsey Wills
Row 2: Fontaine Stegall, Chauntese Williams, Carl Hurd, Pedro Rangel, Demetria Massengill, Jennifer Griffin
Row 3: Davriana Wilson, Diane Petty, Molly Burt, Tristen Congress, Jennifer Ponce
Row 4: Kelly Samson, Jesse York, Kris Greene, Lis Rund, Debra Jorgensen

Choralteens

Sponsor: Mr. Roger Emig
Row 1: Matthew Cunningham, Ashley Suggs, Chuck Stojakovich, Kelly Pero
Row 2: Craig Zaremba, Tracey Rico, Ryan Moore, Tiffaney Davis, Jason McGee, Kate Czubik
Row 3: Darnell Cole, Ebony Carter, Mike Lord, Rachel Caruthers
Row 4: Erik Price, Amy Wilson, Chas Reilly, Kristi Heflin



Choralteens

Sponsor: Mr. Roger Emig
Row 1: Melissa Gray, Jennifer Ramirez, Tina Coburn, Jeannie Hughes
Row 2: Julie Lesniak, Amy Watts, Katie Floyd, Samantha Argue
Row 3: Ben Graves, Mandy Elser, Brandon Waldrop, Cori Wimmer, Kyle Vrotny
Row 4: Kristofer Dabu, Nilaja Neely, John Slavik, Kristine Dabu, Jaime Ortiz, Molly Draper



Vocalteens

Sponsor: Mr. Roger Emig
Row 1: Ben Graves, Tina Coburn, Melissa Gray, Brandon Waldrop
Row 2: Kyle Vrotny, Amy Watts, Julie Lesniak, Kristofer Dabu
Row 3: Ryan Moore, Jeannie Hughes, Nilaya Neely, Darnell Cole
Row 4: Matthew Cunningham, Mandy Elser, Erik Price, Katie Floyd, Chas Reilly, Craig Zaremba



Concert Choir

Sponsor: Mr. Roger Emig
Row 1: Mykah Johnson, Shalonda Hicks, Michael Kinsey, Mark Spurlock, Megan Hampton, Nicole Murphy
Row 2: Mali Suetrong, Amanda Vargo, Steve Burke, Keith Eaton, Nick Ullmann, Angela Doeing, Krissy Jackomis
Row 3: Erin Binkley, Tiffany Wesley, Randy Johnson, Jeff Zweig, Fubian Nwabeke, Aimee Street
Row 4: Heather Phillippe, Camelia Pickett, Shaina Tucker, Laura Gestring, Casé Strong, Ashley McNeil, Sabrina Hennessy



Velveteens

Sponsor: Mr. Roger Emig
Row 1: Julia Frey, Casady Pruitt, Trevy Ramos, Jennifer Slivka, Christine Aloia, April Graves, Maya Rothstein, Sarah Kennedy
Row 2: Jackie Naujokas, Lydia Smith, Jennifer Mustafa, Karen Gresh, Mariana Naglosky, Stephanie Bigelow
Row 3: Tiairra Ragulen, Kara Miller, Kathleen Szot, Sarah Papp, Lisa Vartanoff
Row 4: Laura Sopko, Felicia Parks, Julie Trimble, Cora Gray, Amanda McIntire, Amy Kaste





Concert Orchestra
Sponsor: Mr. John Bradford
Row 1: Ayesha Basemore, Jacqueline Lipski, Mallory Homola, Allison Snyder, Amber Kaste
Row 2: Jon Wargo, Elizabeth Donelson, Katie Wilson, Melissa Velazco, April Samuels, Lisa DeLaRosa, Adam Diamond
Row 3: Justin Stanley, Michelle Danko, Courtney Albright, Eleni Anton, Josh Curtis
Row 4: Patrick Petrovich, Hank Tolhuizen, Arnie Valdez, Paul Best
Row 5: Michael Berta, Josef DeLaCruz, Mike Gonzalez



Concert Orchestra
Sponsor: Mr. John Bradford
Row 1: Gagandeep Kaur, Jeannelle Moreno
Row 2: Christina Georgevich, Pauline Petruch, Cindy Bulanda
Row 3: Randy Aleman, Hilary Marinich



Symphonic Orchestra
Sponsor: Mr. John Bradford
Row 1: Renee Griggs, Chia Chiang, Nichole Pounds, Lacie Hacker, Lunetta Ellison
Row 2: Nicole Sparger, Delia Neylon, Janice Hallenbeck
Row 3: Jeremy Greene, Kristofer Dabu, Fred Dobry
Row 4: Joseph Jordan, Derek Wampler, Ryan Hill
Row 5: James Kelly, Geoff Lalic



Symphonic Orchestra
Sposor: Mr. John Bradford
Row 1: Jennifer Plys, Jennifer Ruschak, SeAndrea Collins, Kasey Samson, Danessa DeLaCruz
Row 2: Tony Allison, Monique Navarro, April Ramirez, Aubrey Szany, Lauren Homola, Daniel Padberg
Row 3: Lauren Hacker, Kim Krizman, Lisa Newell, Melissa Sanchez, Kelly Polonczyk
Row 4: Jon Virgo, Joe Jurisa, Rob Banks, Chris Kors, Guille Dabu



Jazz Impact
Sponsor: Mr. Robert Myers
Row 1: Dominic Angotti, Eileen Peden, Laura Horwith, Kristofer Dabu, Kevin Koves
Row 2: Paulo Laorden, Mark Koves, Kevin Lewis, Dathan Echols, Dan Estes, Angelo Anton
Row 3: John Padberg, Ryan Romeo, Adam Lewis, Bret Sager, Jim Kelly
Row 4: Brandon McVade, David Neville, Kevin Sager

Concert Band

Sponsor: Mr. Robert Myers
Row 1: Dominic Angotti, Zack O'Keefe, Adam Poling, Matt Gutierrez, Eileen Peden, Derron Spencer, Raleigh Ensien
Row 2: Adam Pumnea, Sohail Azeem, Matt Colbert, Jon Savin, Bernard Worsham, Ray Vicerstaff, Ryan Miller
Row 3: Colin Roberts, Shaun Crittenden, Gregory Ross, Brandon Lewis, Virtina Savage, Nicholas G. Kazonis, Edward Vesa, Angelo Anton
Row 4: Marshay Jolly, Neil Osborne, Greg Branda, Ricardo Hernandez, Zach Johnson, Cecil Collins, Earl McClain, A.J. Davis



Symphonic Band

Sponsor: Mr. Robert Myers
Row 1: Breon Harris, Donavan Kepchar, Darius Smith, Marvin Torrence, Shannon Ayers, Chuck Woods
Row 2: Jeffrey Roth, Chris Wisner, Schmekia Hinton, Emily Graun, Becky Stephen, Zerubbabel Lewis, Mark Roberts
Row 3: Paul Kurczyski, Noyan Olcum, Parker Johnson, Paulo Laorden, Chris Harris, Tito Savage
Row 4: Steven Marcus, Lee Cotton, Brian Zelisko, Arthur Jackson, Temidayo Macarthy, Nick Janakievski



Symphonic Winds

Sponsor: Mr Robert Myers and Ms. Amy Davis
Row 1: Amy Pivovarnik, Casey Frey, Nnanna Onyeka, Marc Maple, Jeff Meding
Row 2: Brandon McVade, David Kish, Jamaal Keeton, Chris Nahlik, John Lynn, Tim Stoner
Row 3: Jimmy Procter, Mike Sczurko, Matt Jagiela, Nate Osborne
Row 4: Immanuel Henderson, Dave Perry, Chris Drapeau, Oswaldo Flores



Wind Ensemble — Brass

Sponsors: Mr. Robert Myers and Ms. Amy Davis
Row 1: Cynthia Hunke, Marisa Valdez, Arial Dennie, Eileen Peden
Row 2: Ryan Midkiff, Kevin Koves, Jeffrey Roth, Mark Koves, LaDonna York, Mike Zelisko
Row 3: Matt Festa, Kevin Lewis, Lindsey Lubovich, J.R. Wimbish, Terrance Campbell
Row 4: Angelo Anton, Alan Azcona, Brandon Marcus, Dan Estes, Jon Jasinski, Tom Hancock
Row 5: David Neville, Mike Ford, Tim Randolph, Kevin Sager



Winter Drum Line

Sponsor: Ms. Amy Davis
Row 1: Ginger Francis, Kryssi Fleck, Sara Valdez, Sharon Hawkins, Severina Spivey, Deborah Hawkins, Tamara Bowen, Rachael Pitifer
Row 2: Lindsey Lubovich, Elise Szany, Ray Vicerstaff, Jon Savin, Katie Sawyer, Jessica Zimmerman, Kaye Smith
Row 3 Ms. Amy Davis, Lorne Grimmer, Caleb Bateman, Angelo Anton, Brandon Marcus, Breeon Rodgers, Mark Koves, Terrance Campbell,
Row 4: Dan Estes, David Neville, Jon Jasinski, Brandon McVade, Adam Lewis, Nate Osborne, Dathan Echols





Concert Band

Sponsor: Mr. Robert Myers
Row 1: Chrissy Leus, Ashley Poling, Kimmi Deming, Jasmine Dayon, Jessica Brown, Alexandria Pride
Row 2: Jacqueline Kish, Alisha Hooks, Jamie Kistinger, Laurie Mitchell, Jonathan Warus
Row 3: Christopher Tokarski, Julie Montemayor, Joe Luttinen, Eddie Contreras, Aaron Kochek, Ryan Allender
Row 4: Beckie Parrish, Ashley Jones, Lindsey Lubovich, JoaJuana Hemphill, Cliff Cook, Jason Kendera, Cedric Collins



Symphonic Band

Sponsors: Mr. Robert Myers and Ms. Amy Davis
Row 1: Candice Woods, Laura Vaughn, Nicole Patterson, Brittney Stoica, Katie O'Brien, Melissa Robinson
Row 2: Sherry Kwell, Christina Peschke, Shannan Kimbrough, Abby Hacker, Mallorie Mitchell, Kaye Smith
Row 3: Cermell Pickett, Jessica Weineke, Kelly Swickard, Deaana Howard, Heather McCoy, Patrice Selmon
Row 4: Jeanette Fabian, Jaryn Neal, Dave Rooda, LaMonica Parker, Caitlin Floyd



Symphonic Winds

Sponsor: Mr. Robert Myers
Row 1: Caleb Bateman, Sharon Hawkins, Katie Sawyer, Brittany Grimmer, Amanda Panning, Gen Tucker
Row 2: Stephanie Wusik, Tiffany Allen, Sara Valdez, Deborah, Hawkins, Severina Spivey
Row 3: Jerry Brunn, Kathleen Hyzy, Andrew Swierc, Randy Brodner, Carlton Ayers, Ricky Tants
Row 4:Vicky Cantrell, Aubrey Brainard, Amy Petruch, Josh Agne, Edgard Gomez



Wind Ensemble — Woodwinds

Sponsor: Mr. Robert Myers
Row 1: Kryssi Fleck, Ginger Francis, Krystle Scholtens
Row 2: Renee Ortega, Veronica Ramirez, Laura Horwith, Aimee Ruder, Allison Derico
Row 3: Aleia Rambert, Ariel Diamond, Amy Kochek, Laurie Farver, Liz Henderson, Dawn Molchan
Row 4: Ryan Romeo, Colleen Regan, Marissa Vawter, Dathan Echols
Row 5: John Padberg, Adam Lewis, Nick Graves, Kyle Beshears



Jazz Impressions

Sponsor: Mr. Ron Shalk
Row 1: Justin Barron, Jonathan Warus, Eddie Contreras, Marvin Torrence
Row 2: Becky Stephen, Kevin Lewis, Emily Peters, Jason Kendera, Angelo Anton
Row 3: Dan Estes, Neil Osborne, Dathan Echols, Lindsey Lubovich
Row 4: Nathan Street, Tom Hancock, Jon Jasinski, Marissa Vawter



Laurie Farver, '01, puts her heart and soul into her part as Fania Fenelon in "Playing for Time." Farver particpated in many dramatic productions during her high school career.

Diverse Performers



Nine bands, ColorGuard, two Orchestras, four choirs. For students who are into entertainment, the possiblilites are endless.

Orchestra, choir, band and drama can be a creative outlet for those talented students who wish to participate. Participation in creative arts programs is one way to release energy just waiting to escape. A variety of choices exists for every student's preference.

Actors and actresses can experience the adrenaline of being on stage. Dancers, singers and musicians can take their stand in either choir, orchestra or band.

Those with a more flamboyant flair can practice their baton and flag twirling in ColorGuard.

Student musicians can perform in one of the nine bands.

—Mary Ann Fotis

David Neville, '02, and Brandon Marcus, '01, stand on the sidelines during the football games to play the drums.



Performing with the band during all of the fall shows are members of the Dance Team. Together with the band, Christina Damjanoski, '01, and the rest of the Dance Team participated in the Indiana State School Music Association Marching Festival in South Bend.





Members of the 2000 Band of Pirates take the field at Demaree Stadium before the Homecoming football game. Part of the pre-game show is to play the school song and the National Anthem for the fans.

Kevin Koves, '01, plays the trumpet for the Band of Pirates. Kevin has played in the band at MHS for four years.





The Drum Line stay on the sidelines during the football game to keep the beat for the fans. Drum Line members (from left) are Kyle Beshears, '03, Nathan Osborne, '02, Oswaldo Flores, '02, Henry Jackowski, '03.

Fall Fun And Fair Play



Belting out a number on his electric guitar during the 2000 show, "Latin Jazz," is Chris Wisner, '02. Chris also plays the saxophone in the band.

"I think it's great for the kids . . . we have such great fans to listen to us perform." Mr. Bob Myers

The end of summer means band camp for members of MHS Marching Band. After a week of day-long practices, the band meets twice a week after school to perfect the performance that the fans enjoy on Friday night.

After all the long practices, half time of the football game arrives. Nervous and sweating, the band marches out onto the field only to give what they hope will be another great performance.

"I sweat a lot and I'm really nervous, but I get used to it," Allison Dericho '01 said.

Despite all the hard work and taut nerves, the band director said he thinks performing in a band is worth the effort.

When the crowd claps and cheers after the band's performance, Mr. Myers said, "I think it's great for the kids. They get a great deal out of it, because we have such great fans to listen to us perform."

Indiana State School Music Competitions are held during October in Elkhart and South Bend. The band also participates in music festivals during the fall.

—Meghan Mauman

Concentrating to make sure he hits every note is Ryan Allender, '04. Allender and the members of the Pep Band play at every home game and set the festive mood at basketball games.



Jimmy Procter, '01, gets the fans involved as he plays the school song at a basketball game. Procter enjoys getting the fans involved.







John Padberg, '01, closes his eyes as he plays the saxophone. Padberg has been involved in band throughout high school.



To keep time with the other members of the band, Dathan Echols, '02, glances up at Mr. Bob Myers, the conductor.

Pep Band

Jazz Band



"I have nothing but the highest expectations for all my bands, and they have done nothing other than live up to those expectations." Mr. Bob Myers

Members of the Pep Band help establish the mood during basketball games. Adam Lewis, '03, hits his notes with the saxophone.

Members of Jazz Impressions work together to play the song to their highest level. Teamwork is a big part of the band, to create their individual sound.

If things start to become a little dull, we know we can always count on one thing-the Pep Band! The basketball game is beginning to drag, the audience is becoming distracted, when all of a sudden, the Pep Band starts to play and everything picks up again. The band has a huge responsibility of keeping the crowd and the players excited and fired up.

Membership in the Pep Band is voluntary. Some 60 to 100 musicians meet every Friday before games to practice. Anyone can join as long as they have had experience with the instruments. There are certain characteristics, however, that Pep Band members like to have.

"I was told to join Pep Band when I was a freshman because I act crazy and I'm very loud," stated Eileen Peden, '01.

The man behind all of this madness is none other than Mr. Bob Myers, who also is in charge of Jazz Band. This is Mr. Myers' first year here at MHS, and he loves it.

"The kids here are great," Mr. Myers said. "We have different opportunities here than I did at the previous places I taught, and we are able to do so much more."

There are two different Jazz Bands. One is for the beginners, and the other is for students who are more experienced, Myers said.

The advanced band has 22 students, and beginners' band has 18. Unlike the Pep Band, the Jazz Band participates in competitions and performs in concerts.

At competitions, Jazz Band has received three outstanding solo awards. They play everything from swing, funk, to fusion.

Mr. Myers said that he has nothing but the highest expectations for all of his bands, and they have done nothing other than live up to those expectations.

— Dena Panayi

Kasey Samson, '01, and Courtney Albright, '04, look up to see what was going on. Samson and Albright were key characters in the play.



Dee Neylon directs the ladies in "Playing for Time." Neylon played one of the main characters, Alma Rose.





Amanda McIntire ,'03 and Keith Birmingham smile as they sing and dance. McIntire played the role of Mariane.





Irene Kourtesis, '01, smiles at Keith Birmingham. Kourtesis played Mandel, a Nazi Chief, in the play, "Playing for Time."

Fall Play Turns Dramatic



'Doing a dramatic play was an important experience,' Mrs. Seaver said.

Laurie Farver, '01, looks up as she takes directions from Mike Zelisko, '01. Farver played one of the main characters, Fania Fenelon.

The cast comes out one more time for the final bow. The Fall Play was called "Playing for Time."

Merrillville's Dramatic Society turned over a new leaf with the dramatic play they presented in the fall.

Drama teacher Mrs. Beverly Seaver said Merrillville students hadn't performed a dramatic play in the last four years, so she thought it was time for one.

Set in World War II during the Holocaust, "Playing For Time" chronicles the story of members of the women's orchestra in Auschwitz-Birkenau who avoided the gas chambers by playing for the Nazi officers at the camp.
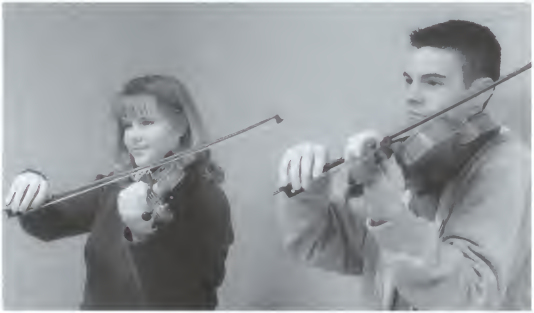
The auditions for the play took place in the last week of August. The cast rehearsed for two months prior to the play, practicing everyday for about three hours.

"Doing a dramatic play was an important experience," Mrs. Seaver said.

One of the main characters, Fania Fenelon, played by Laurie Farver, '01, was a real life survivor who kept a diary of her time in the camp. The play is based on that diary. Other main characters were Dee Neylon, '02, as Alma Rose, and Amanda Macintire, '03, as Mariane

— Kortina Gates

Kelly Polonczyk and Ryan Hill, both '01, practice hard for the upcoming orchestra concert. They each have been playing for seven years.



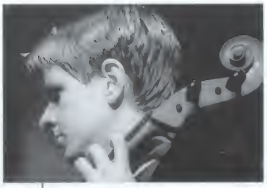
Mr. John Bradford conducts with pleasure. His smile gives his students the motivation to perform well and have fun.





Playing the cello is hard work, but Hilary Marinich,'04, enjoys the music. This is Hilary's first year playing for the high school.





Jeremy Greene,'01, concentrates on the music. This is Jeremy's last year playing at Merrillville.

Orchestra is Both Fun and Work

Merrillville Orchestra can only get better. With a teacher like Mr. John Bradford and students who are willing to learn and excel, Merrillville's Orchestras are climbing the latter of success.

Jeannelle Moreno,'04, a newcomer to Merrillville, hopes to one day play with the Indiana State Youth Orchestra.

"It's a challenge I'm willing to take," said Moreno.

Kelly Polonczyk and Ryan Hill, both '01, have been in orchestra for seven years. Polonczyk plans to minor in music performance in college. Hill enjoys the fun and hard work in orchestra. Polonczyk likes the different types and styles of music that they learn.

This is Mr. Bradford's third year teaching at Merrillville. One of his best experiences with the orchestra was the Spring 1999 trip to Florida when his students performed at Epcot Center.

"The students behaved well and had a good time. I'm looking forward to doing that again," he said.

He also looks forward to doing performances with small groups in the community. Mr. Bradford encourages his students to take their playing "to the next level." He hopes one day to conduct a full symphonic orchestra.

"That's what a real orchestra is," Mr. Bradford. said.

Qualifying for the state finals and traveling to exotic locations are just two things that Mr. Bradford said he wants to do with his students.

"That's a big goal and something we all will have to work hard to achieve," he said.

— Jessica Moreno



Mike Berta,'03, concentrates on the music and watches his conductor. It takes time and effort to get everything right.

Mr. Bradford encourages his students to take their playing "to the next level."

The violins of the orchestra play gracefully during the winter concert. Perfect performance is key to an excellent outcome.

April Graves,'03, and Kathleen Szot,'03, tune up their voices in Velveteens. The Velveteens, an all-girl choir, meets during third period.



Mr. Roger Emig entertains the audience at the Christmas concert. As the choir director, Mr. Emig teaches students singing and dancing. Along the way, students learn many other valuable lessons.





Dancing together, Darnell Cole, '01, and Niiaja Neely, '02, entertain the audience at the 2000 Christmas concert. The pair teamed up for a few dancing numbers.





Senior Kyle Vrotny belts out one of his last solo performances at Merrillville. Vrotny has been a part of the choir for four years.

Craig Zaremba, '02, and Robert Perez, '01, perform the Hallelujah Chorus at the Christmas Concert. During this piece, the choirs invite all MHS alumni to join their performance.



Hitting the high note is a specialty of Ashlie Coleman, '01, Samantha Argue, '02, and Ashley Suggs, '01. All three girls are sopranos in the Choralteens.

Practice Makes Perfect

If the saying "practice makes perfect" is right, the Merrillville Vocalteens and Choralteens are well on their way to perfection. With practice six hours every week and work-filled class periods, the MHS choir prepared for a jam-packed year.

The Christmas season brought collaboration between the choir and orchestra and another performance which included pieces from the Messiah.

The spring meant two more concerts and the competitive season for the group. The students competed in the ISSMA and Solo and Ensemble competitions in March. Merrillville received many superior ratings there.

The choirs headed off to Toronto to perform during Spring Break.

"I love to sing, but I especially love performing for people," said Amy Watts, '01.

The Vocalteens were just as busy with over twenty concerts on their schedule. They sang and danced all over the town of Merrillville at banquets, country clubs and churches. This type of rigorous schedule made for a very tightly knit group.

"There is a camaraderie between everyone," said Kyle Vrotny, '01. "All the time spent together brings us together as a family."

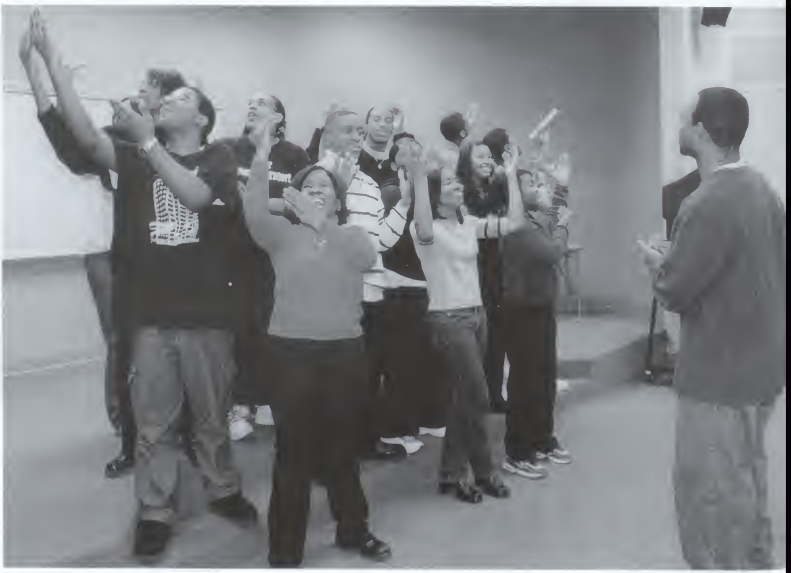
—Meredith Lucas

Tamika Fultz, '03 , Kaye Smith,'03, and Cheryl Perkins,'01, sing with joy during rehearsals. Students enjoy singing praises about the Lord.

Inspired by the music Terrance Campell, '01, claps and smiles. He is one of the few males in the choir.









Mr. Sheldon Floyd, the Inspirational Choir director, feels the music as seen in his face. Mr. Floyd gives them encouragement to make the songs perfect.



Tito Savage, '03, explains to Breon Rogers, '02, what pitch to use during the song. The boys practice hard to get the right sound.

Inspirational Choir

In the past three years, the Inspirational Choir not only has entertained with songs, but also helped throughout the community. Sheldon Floyd, the director, talked about the choir with his students in class one day and they decided they would like to organize the choir.

"I joined because it would be a way to meet new people and sing for the Lord," said Joselyn Blanchard.

Mr. Floyd tried to start the choir and the turn out was good. Mr. Floyd was part of a gospel choir at Indiana State University.

The choir now has about 25 members.

The students perform all-gospel concerts, with gospel, jazz and blues backgrounds. The kids enjoy singing the songs, "Lord in My Light," "Total Praise," and "Let Everything That Hath Breath."

Mr. Floyd and the choir members also have expressed an interest in becoming active in the community by staging a play that deals with teen issues.

The Inspirational Choir allows students to come together and sing praises about the Lord and also help out the community.

—Liz Balcerak



"I joined because it would be a way to meet new people and sing for the Lord," said Joselyn Blanchard.

A group of choir students concentrate on Mr. Floyd as they perfect a song. Mr. Floyd gives them encouragement to sing their best.

The Inspirational Choir gets involved in the songs by singing and dancing. This is a good way for students to get involved with gospel music and their friends.

Working it with their country style, Diana Hughes,'03, Tina Coburn,'02, Amanda McIntire,'03, and Katie Floyd,'02, strut their stuff as back- up dancers for Jeannie Hughes,'01.



Jeannie Hughes, 01, smiles as she sings to the crowd. She participated in The Revue by singing a song by The Dixie Chicks.





Matt Cunningham, '02, participates in a skit immitating Willy Wonka. His android, Hal 9000, is played by Dee Neylon.



Tiairra Ragulen, '03, opens her heart to the audience as she sings "Open Up My Heart."



Marsheena Kendrick, '04, sings from her heart to touch others with her beautiful voice. Accompanied by her father on the piano, she sang "inseparable."



Kristofer Dabu, '02, sings and plays his guitar. His band, "Catatonic Stupor," performed an original song.

Derek Roidan, '03, sings with his alternative band, "Adreneline."



Revue 2001

A Celebrity Space Survivor Odyssey



Melissa Gray, '01, dedicates "You've Got A Way" to her boyfriend at Revue 2001.

Along with Jaime Ortiz, Mr. Lambersie kept the audience laughing with his performance as an Oompa Lumpa.

This year's "Revue 2001, A Celebrity Space Survivor Odyssey" presented a diverse mix of singing, dancing routines, flag waving and, most of all, humor.

Mrs. Beverley Seaver, producer and sponsor, took on Mr. John Lambersie to help write the Revue's Sketch Comedy. Along with Jaime Ortiz, Mr. Lambersie kept the audience laughing with his performance as an Oompa Lumpa.

The sketch poked fun at many different things, from "Reality TV" to teen idols Carson Daly, played by Chas Reilly, '01, and Christina Aguilera, played by Laurie Farver, '01.

The Revue showed its diversity by mixing music, different generations of entertainers, and many different people's talents.

Mark Koves, '02, showcased his talent for music writing and piano playing when he played an original piece of music for the audience.

Revue 2001 also featured a mix of alternative, romantic and acoustic music.

— Megan Brown and Irene Kourtesis

Lysander, played by Jeff Roth, '01, has just been placed under a sleeping spell. Helena, played by Cindy Wahlman, '02, tries to awaken him from his slumber.



Queen Elizabeth the First, played by Aubrey Brainard, '03, sits on her royal throne and oversees the play that was written for her by William Shakespeare.





Titania, Queen of the Fairies, played by Laurie Farver, '01, looks on as she waits for her lover. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was Farver's 16th and final appearance with the MHS Dramatic Society.



Puck, played by Diane Hughes, '03, follows the Fairy King's orders and casts a spell on Lysander, played by Jeff Roth, '01.



The fairies, played by Adaku Onyeka, Ebonee Hunter, both '03, Laura Lackey, '04, Kathleen Hyzy, '03, and Courtney Albright, '04, dance hand in hand for the "round" dance.

Spring Play

All in a Night's Dream

Fairies mix in the lives of mortals and inevitably mess everything up in this year's spring play by William Shakespeare.

Working every day after school, the Thespians practiced "A Midsummer Night's Dream" until the play was perfect.

Choreographing a fairy singing and dancing routine, getting their lines memorized, making the elaborate scenery and stunning costumes required many hours of work by the students, Mrs. Beverley Seaver and a group of helpful parents.

"I'm ecstatic. The play looks beautiful and it sounds beautiful. The kids did a great job," Mrs. Seaver said.

While the spring play is usually a musical, this year's Shakespearean production challenged the students in many ways, from the Elizabethan language that they had to memorize to the preparation for opening night.

"I think it was a little hard for most of the people with large speaking roles because they had all of those old English words that aren't used any more," commented Karen Gresh, '02.

— Megan Brown



Hermia, played by Delia Neylon, '02, has an argument with Demetrius, played by Jon Wargo, '04. Hermia accuses Demetrius of killing Lysander in his sleep.



Ricky Holtz, '01, carries Joe Schmidt, '02, on his shoulders at the Homecoming class games.

Diverse People



Each of us has a certain flair or characteristic that sets us apart from all the rest.

The nature and demeanor of each person meshes with others to create a group. Those who carry the same likes and dislikes tend to stick together with similar people. While some would rather remain on their own, others prefer large groups and can get along with practically anyone.

When it comes to uniqueness, just look around any corner at MHS and you'll find it.

People come in all shapes and sizes. They represent many different races and creeds. Each persons has a personality that sets him apart from everyone else. Some may be quiet and shy and a little reserved, while others are loud and boisterous or outgoing.

No matter which category you fit into, everyone at MHS is unique.

— MaryAnn Fotis

Seniors

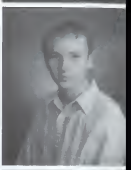
Jessica Abbott — Teacher's Aide 12; Volleyball 9
Matthew Abbott
Suad Abdullah — Diversity Club 12
Jessica Lee Adams — Pirate Radio 9,10: PNN 9,10,11,12; Quill & Scroll 10,11,12; Quill & Scroll Officer 11; Football Manager 11,12; Teacher's Aide 11; WMHS Productions 9,10; WMHS Productions Producer 10






Brian Adler — Basketball 9,10
Michael J. Ainone — Baseball 9; Business Professional of America 10; Environmental Club 9; JETS 9; Teacher's Aide 9,10,11,12
Naomi Alcala
Jeremy Aaron Alder



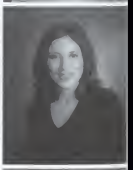
Jeremy Andrew Aliff
Eunice N. Anazigo — National Honor Society 11,12; Peer Mediation 9,10,11,12; Student Government 12
Joseph Edward Ameling — Creative Writing Club 12; Marine Biology 10,11
Jose L. Anaya — Band 9,10;Revue 9






Darrian Anderson
Angelo Anton — Band 9,10,11,12; Jazz Combo 11,12; Jazz Impact 11,12; Jazz Impressions 10; Orchestra 11,12
Edwina Marie Aponte — Band 9,10; Basketball 9,10; Golf 10; Office Aide 9,10,11; Soccer 11,12; Teacher's Aide 12
Jennifer Marie Arambula — Cross Country 10,11,12; Fellowship of Christian Athletes 12; Teacher's Aide 10,11,12; Track 9,10,11,12



Baffour Asabere — Basketball 9; Football 12; Soccer 11; Tennis 9,10; Track 12;
Elizabeth Atwood — Choir 10,11,12
Mitchell Aubuchon — Drama Club 10; Fall Play 10; National Honor Society 11,12; Revue 10; Spanish Club 9,10,11,12; Spanish Club Officer 10,11,12; Spring Musical 10
Carlton Ayers — Band 9,10,11,12; Basketball 9; Revue 11; Track 9,10,11,12






Alan Azcoua
Kenneth Badylak — Business Manager of Newspaper 12; Class President 9; Golf 9,10,11,12; Golf Captain 12; Newspaper 11,12; Quill & Scroll 11,12; Quill & Scroll President 12; Sports Editor of Newspaper 11,12; Student Government 9,10; Swimming 9,10,11,12; Swimming Captain 11,12
Lynette N. Bagwell — Band 11,12; Class Officer 9; Drama Club 9,10; Fall Play 9,10; Color Guard 11,12; Color Guard Captain 12; Inspirational Choir 9; Office Aide 11; Peer Mediator 9,10,11; Thespians 9; Volleyball 9; Yearbook 12





Seniors






Elizabeth Balcerak — Teacher's Aide 10,12; Volleyball 9,10,11; Yearbook 12
Gabrielle D. Baldner
Shavon M. Bannister
Cedalia Amber Barksdale — Inspirational Choir 10,11,12; Revue 11; Teacher's Aide 12






Pearlene L. Barksdale — Choir 11,12; Teacher's Aide 12
Julika Barthel — FCCLA 12; Swimming 12
Jillian Ann Bazziel — Choir 9; Natural Helpers 11; Yearbook 11
LaCara Bazziel — Newspaper 11; Yearbook 11






David Beale — Baseball 9,10,11,12; Football 9,10,11,12; Football Captain 12
Courtney Beam
Alissa Bell — Key Club 10; Teacher's Aid 12
Brandon Michael Beller — Baseball 9; Basketball 9; Soccer 9,10,11,12






Genevieve S. Bellmon
Michael Benavides — French Club 10; Jazz Impact 10; JETS 12; Revue 12
Adrienne Jeaneá Best — Choir 9,10; Inspirational Choir 10; Key Club 9,10,11,12; Key Club Officer 11,12; Natural Helpers 10; Quest Club 10; Revue 10; Student Advisory Committee 11,12; Teacher's Aide 12; WITT 10,12
Erin Binkley






Darnell Blackmon — Band 9,10,11; Debate 9; Inspirational Choir 10,11,12; Jazz Impact 9,10; Office Aide 10; Revue 10,11; Student Government 9,10; Teens for Christ 12; WITT 10,11
Jocelyn Blanchard — Inspirational Choir 10,11,12; Inspirational Choir Officer 12; Student Government 12; WITT 10,11,12; WITT Officer 12
Bruce Blue
Patrick Boksa — Band 9,10





James Tyree Borom — Basketball 9,10,11,12; Basketball Captain 12; Football 9,10,11,12
Joey Brazeau — Auto Shop 11; Bowling Team 11,12; Building Trades 12; Teacher's Aide 12
Randall Brodner — Band 9,10,11,12; Baseball 9,10,11,12; Football 9,10,11; German Club 12; National Honor Society 11,12

Seniors

Lyndsey Brooks — Drama Club 9
Angela Brown — Student Manager Boys' Track 11.
Teacher's Aide 12
Irvin Bryant
Raymond Busch






Aaron John Byczko — Golf 9,10; National Honors Society 11,12; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 11; Track 11
Jonathan M. Byerly — Baseball 9,10,11,12; Baseball Captain 10,12; Teacher's Aide 12
Terrance Campbell — Band 9,10,11,12
Camille Campos






Ebony Carter
Racheal Monique Carter — Choir 9; Class Officer 10,11; JROTC 9,10,11,12; WITT 12
Katherine Jane Castro — Academic Superbowl 11,12; Drama Club 9,10; Fall Play 9,10; JETS 12; National Honors Society 11,12; Orchestra 9,10; Quiz Bowl Team 11,12; Spring Musical 9,10; Thespians 9,10
Jim Chenault — Bowling 11,12; Printing Pressman 11,12






Hsin Chiang — Academic Decathlon Team 11,12; Academic Superbowl 9,10,11,12; JETS 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 9; Spell Bowl Team 9,11,12; Student Manager Soltball 9,12
Jennifer Amanda Christoff — Choir 9,10,11; Creative Writing Club 12; Drama Club 9,10,11; Office Aide 12
Pete Christoff — Creative Writing Club 12; German Club 11; JETS 12
Jessica Yesenia Cisneros — Spanish Club 12; Teacher's Aide 12






Yesenia Jessica Cisneros
Jason Coin — Building Trades 12
Darnell E. Cole, Jr. — Band 9,10,11; Choir 10,11,12; Drama Club 9,10,11; Fall Play 9,10; French Club 10,11,12; French Club Officer 12; Jazz Impact 9,10; JETS 11; National Honor Society 11,12; Peer Mediator 12; Revue 10; Show Choir 10,11,12; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 12; Spanish Club 10,12; Spring Musical 9,10,11; Thespians 10,11; Track 11,12; Vocal Teens 10,11,12; Wrestling 9
Ashlie Coleman — Cheerleading 9,10; Choir 9,10,11,12; Class Government 10,12; Class Senate 12; Football Homecoming Court 12; Pirate Radio 9; PNN 9; Revue 11; Show Choir 10,11,12; Spring Musical 11; Swimming 12; Track 9,10,11,12; Vocalteens12






Jessica Lynn Cooper — Office Aide 12; Peer Helper 11; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Teacher Aide 12
Nebojsa Copic — National Honor Society 11,12; Peer Tutor 12




Seniors
























Lauritz Corsey III
Christopher Crook
Crystal L. Croson—Basketball 9,10; Golf 10,11,12; Golf Captain 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Softball Manager 10,11; Teacher's Aide 12
Christy Cvetan — National Honor Society 11,12; Pirate Radio 9; Volleyball 9; SADD 12

Carla Dabis — Choir 9; FBLA 9,10; PNN 12; Senior Video Staff 12; Yearbook 9,10
Kristine Joy Dabu—Class Officer 9,10; Choir 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 9,10; French Club 11,12; French Club Officer 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Revue 9,10,11,12; Show Choir 10,11,12; Spring Mnsical 9,10,11; Spring Play 12; StudentAdvisory Committee 9; SADD 10,11,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Student Government Officer 11,12; Thespians 9,10,11,12; Velveteens 10
Christina Damjanoski—Choir 9,10; National Honor Society 11,12; Pirate Radio 10; Dance Team 9,10,11,12; Dance Team Captain 12; SADD 9,10; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12
Benjamin Daniel—Prom Court 11; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 12; Track 10,11,12;

Michael Danko
Radhika B. Dave—Cross Country 10; Environmental Club 11; JETS 11,12; Key Club 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 9,10; Science Olympiad 11,12; Spanish Club 11; Student Advisory Committee 9,10,11,12; SADD 11,12; SADD Officer 12; Student Manager Boys' Tennis 11; Teacher's Aide 11,12; Tennis 9,10,11,12;
Sharon A. DeLaCruz—Student Government 9,10,11,12
Leroy Dennis

Marquita Dennis
Allison Derico—Band 9,10,11,12; Basketball 9,10,11,12; Basketball Captain 11; Key Club 11; Softball 10,11,12
Angela DeJesus—Color Guard 10,11,12; Revue 11,12; Spanish Club 10
Ariel Diamond—Band 12; Marching Band; Peer Mediation; Teacher's Aide 12; Teens for Christ; Wind Ensemble

Amanda Lyn Diehl—Basketball 9; Class Government 9,10,11,12; Class Officer 9,10,11; Homecoming Court (Football) 12; Homecoming Princess (Basketball) 10; National Honor Society 11,12; National Honor Society Officer 12; Office Aide 12; Peer Mediator 12; SADD 9,10,11,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Student Government Officer 12; Student Manager Volleyball and Basketball 10; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Tennis Captain 10,11; Volleyball 9
Raymond Dix III—Baseball 9,10,12; Student Government 12; Teacher's Aide 12; Track 12; Yearbook 12
James Donelson—Building Trades 12; Track 11;
Molly A. Draper—Basketball 9,10; Choir 9,10,11,12; Creative Writing Club 12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 9,10,11,12; Office Aide 12; Show Choir 10,11; Softball 12; Spring Musical 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12; Thespians 9,10,11,12; Volleyball 9

Misti Dugger
Pero Dukleski—Bowling 11,12; Environmental Club 11,12

Seniors

Katie Dyer — Cheerleading 9,10,11; French Club 10,11; Gymnastics 9,10,11,12; Gymnastics Co-Captain 12; JETS 11; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11; SADD 9,10,11,12; Student Government 12; Teacher's Aide 12; Track 9,10,11,12
Tina L. Elkins — Creative Writing Club 12
Dana English — Band 9,10,11; Color Guard 10,11; HERO 12
Denairo Julian Equihua — Student Government 12; Wrestling 11,12






Angela Escobedo — Class Officer 11; Choir 9,10,11; Fall Play 9; Homecoming Court(Basketball) 9,10; Homecoming Princess(Basketball) 9,10; Peer Mediator 12; Prom Court 11; Revue 10; Student Government 11; Student Manager Boys' Soccer 11; Student Manager(Wrestling) 9; VocalTeens 11; Volleyball 9,10,11; Yearbook 12
Victor Espinosa, Jr. — Band 9,10,11,12; French Club 12
Michael J. Evans — IL Honors Program in Foreign Languages
Aubrey Ann Fairbairn — Basketball 9; Diving 10; Quest Club 11; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 10,11,12; SADD 11; Swimming 10; Track 9






Laurie Beth Farver — Band 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Drama Club Officer 12; Fall Play 10,11,12; Flag Corps 10,11,12; Revue 9,10,11,12; Speech Team 9,10,11; Spell Bowl Team 9,10,11; Spring Musical 10,11,12; Spring Play 12; Thespians 10,11,12
Nina Elvira Fernandez — JETS 12; Student Manager Boys' Track 11
Matthew Festa
Austin L. Floyd — Cross Country 9,10,11,12; German Club 9,10,11,12; JETS 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Student Government Officer 12; Track 9,12





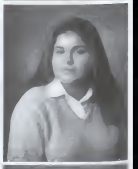

Ryan Fogarty
Nicole Foore
Mike Ford
Adara Foree — Choir 9; SADD 12; Student Manager Wrestling 10,11; Teacher's Aide 10,12; WITT 12

MaryAnn Fotis — Newspaper 12; Yearbook 11,12; Yearbook Editor 12
Catherine Rose Freeman — German American Partnership Program 11; German Club 9,11; SADD 10,11,12; SADD Officer 11; Student Government 9; Track 10,12
Kia Freeman
Lauren B. Fruehling — Environmental Club 12; Soccer 12






Marquita P. Fuentes — Band 9,10,11,12; Color Guard 9,10; Inspirational Choir 12; Office Aide 12; Peer Mediator 9,10,11,12; Dance Team 11,12
Peter Gaines — Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Thespians 10,11,12

Seniors






Steven Gaines
Kortina Gates — Cross Country 11; Student Manager Cross Country 12; Teacher's Aide 12; Track 9,10,11,12; Yearbook 12
Charese Gault
Colt Gay






Kathleen Gayda
Andy Gerlach
Julia Isabel Gil — H.E.R.O. 12; Natural Helpers 10
Ronald L. Glaze, Jr. — Cheerleading 10,12; Football 9,10; Track 9






Ed Gomez — Band 9,10,11,12; Football 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Pirate Radio 9,10,12; PNN 9,10; Spanish Club 9,10
Amanda Gonzalez
Omar K. Gore — Basketball 9,10,11,12
Christopher J. Gough — Football 9,10,11; Office Aide 9; Track 9,11,12






Nickolas J. Graves — Band 9,10,11,12; Baseball 9,10,11,12; Football 9,10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Wrestling 9,10,11,12; Wrestling Captain 12
Jason Gray
Melissa L. Gray — Choir 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 12; Revue 11,12; Show Choir 11,12; Spring Musical 11; SADD 11; Teacher's Aide 11,12; Vocal Teens 12
Jeremy Shawn Greene — National Honor Society 10,11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Spanish Club 12






Frantoine Greenwood
Joseph Gregory — Environmental Club 9; Natural Helpers 9; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; WITT 11
Nathan Gregory
Jessica Lee Gross — Academic Superbowl 11,12; Drama Club 9,10; French Club 9,10; JETS 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Quiz Bowl Team 11,12 Soccer 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 12; Thespians 9,10; Track 11,12




Samuel D. Guajardo — Baseball 9,10; Basketball 9; Football 9,10; French Club 9,10
Athena Guerrero

Seniors

Lacie Lee Hacker — Class Government 10,11,12; Drama Club 11,12; Fall Play 11,12; Fellowship of Christian Athletes 9,10; FCCLA 9,10,11,12; FCCLA Officer 10,11,12; German Club 10,11; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Revue 11,12; Spanish Club 10; Spring Musical 10,11,12; SADD 12; Thespians 11,12
Lauren Amy Hacker — Class Government 10,11,12; Drama Club 11,12; Fall Play 11,12; Fellowship of Christian Athletes 9,10; FCCLA 9,10,11,12; FCCLA Officer 10,11,12; German Club 10,11; Natural Helpers 12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Peer Helper 12; Revue 11,12; Spanish Club 10; Sprng Musical 10,11,12; SADD 12; Student Government 12; Thespians 11,12
Jonathan Hadt
Hara Halkias — Office Aide 9,11; Pin Pal 10,11,12; Peer Helper 11; Student Government 9,10,11,12



Nicole Halkias — Office Aide 9,11; Pin Pal 10,11,12; Peer Helper 11; Student Government 9,10,11,12
Megan Hampton — Choir 9,10,11,12; Creative Writing Club 12; Key Club 9
Thomas Hancock
Justin Hansen — Baseball 9,10,11,12; Basketball 9,10; Office Aide 9,12



Lawrence Harding
Jason Harness — Cross Country 9,10; Track 9
Stacey Harreld — Academic Superbowl Team 10,11,12; Class Officer 11,12; Future Educators of America 10,11; National Honor Society 11,12
Toni Fabré Harrell



Dena Harris
Joshua Harris — Building Trades 11
Patricia Harris
Deborah Hawkins



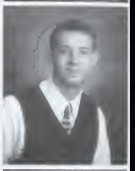
Thera Hazlett
Matthew Hebert
Kristi Heflin
Nicole Alison Heidbreder — French Club 11; SADD 10; Teacher's Aide 10,11; Volleyball 9



Immanuel Henderson — Band 9,10,11,12; Football 11; Pep Band 12; Teacher's Aide 11
Antonio Hernandez



































Seniors
























Jason Hernandez
Curt Herzog
Nick Hidalgo — Academic Decathlon Team 9,10; Baseball 9; National Honor Society 11,12; Quest Club 10; Spanish Club 9; Student Government 12
Ryan Hill

Cheryl Lynn Hoagland — Cheerleading 9,10,11,12; Choir 9,10; Homecoming Court (Football) 12; Homecoming Court (Basketball) 9,10; National Honor Society 11,12; Prom Court 11; Prom Queen 11; Student Advisory Committee 9; SADD 9
Richard A. Holtz, Jr. — Newspaper 11,12; Newspaper Editor 11,12; Quill and Scroll 11,12; Quill and Scroll Officer 12; Yearbook 12; Student Manager Softball 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12; Tennis 10,11,12
Laura Horwith — Band 9,10,11,12; Class Officer 9; Choir 10; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Drama Club Officer 10; Fall Play 9,10,12; French Club 10,11; Jazz Impact 10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 12; Dance Team 9,10,11,12; Dance Team Captain 10; Revue 9,10,12; Show Choir 10; Spring Musical 9,10; SADD 10; Student Government 9,10; Teacher's Aide 11; Thespians 9,10,11,12; Velveteens 10
Jeannie Hughes — Cheerleading 9; Choir 10,11,12; Drama Club 10,11,12; Fall Play 10,11,12; Fellowship of Christian Athletes 9; National Honor Society 11,12; Peer Tutor 12; Revue 12; Science Olympiad 11,12; Spanish Club 10; Spring Musical 10,11,12; SADD 9; Student Government 10,11,12; Student Government Officer 12; Thespians 10,11,12; Vocal Teens 12; Wrestling Pin Pal 10,11

Matthew W. Huttle — Building Trades 11,12; Cross Country 9
Mirko Ivanovic
Amanda Jabkowski
Serreana Jackson — Track 12

Michelle Janeski — Class Government 10; HERO 12; SADD 10; Track 10,11,12; Track Captain 12
Kendall Denise Jefferson — Band 9,10,11; Cheerleading 9; National Honor Society 11,12; Solo & Ensemble 10,11,12; SADD 12; Teacher's Aide 12; Volleyball 9; WITT 9,12; Tutor 10,11,12
Derrell Jenkins — Baseball 9; Cross Country 9,10,11; Cross Country Captain 10,11; Football 9; Office Aide 10,11; Peer Education (AIDS) 9,10,11; Peer Mediation 11; Track 9,10,11,12
Kenisha Jenkins

Wyatt Johnson
Claudia S. Jones — National Honor Society 11,12; Teacher's Aide 11
Krystle Jones — Cross Country 11,12; Teacher's Aide 11; Track 9,10,11,12
Michael J. Jones, Jr. — Auto Shop 11; Teacher's Aide 12

Debra Jorgensen
Laura Anne Jostes — Class Government 12; Basketball 9,10,11; Golf 10,11,12; Golf Captain 12; Softball 10,11,12; SADD 12; Teacher's Aide 10,12; Volleyball 9

Seniors

Thears Judkins
Kewanna She'nae Julkes — Choir 9,10,11
Lisa Marie Kadelak — Basketball 9,10,11; Softball 10,11,12
Kirsten L. Kaiser — Choir 9; Golf 9,10,11,12; Golf Captain 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Softball 9; Teacher's Aide 9,10









Christie Michelle Kamanaroff — Cheerleading 9,10,11; Gymnastics 9,10,11,12; Gymnastics Captain 12; Natural Helpers 10; Peer Mediator 9,10,11,12; Spring Musical 10; Student Manager (Soccer) 12; Track 9,10,11,12
Neil Kasiak
Jeremiah Keene — Basketball 9; Football 9,10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12
Jamaal Keeton — Band 9,10,11,12; Swimming 9,10,11,12









Napoleon Keeton — Band 9,10; Baseball 10; Peer Helper 12; Swimming 9,10,11,12
Kevin Kerr
Erica Latrice Kimble — Basketball 9; Newspaper 12; Student Advisory Committee 10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12; Yearbook 11
Mia D. Kimble — Choir 9,10,11,12; Office Aide 9; Revue 11; Show Choir 12; Spring Musical 11









David Kish — Band 9,10,11,12; Building Trades 11,12
Melissa Kish — Class Officer 10,12; Choir 9,10; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Drama Club Officer 10,11,12; Environmental Club 10,11; Fall Play 12; Future Educators of America 10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; National Honor Society Officer 12; Pirate Radio 9,10; PNN 9,10; Revue 10,11; Speech Team 11; Spring Musical 9,10,12; Student Government 10,11,12; Student Manager (Football) 10,11,12; Student Trainer(Basketball)10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 11,12; Thespians 9,10,11,12; Thespians Officer 10,11,12
Leslie Kleminski — Cross Country 9,10,11,12; Cross Country Captain 11,12; Key Club 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Teacher's Aide 12; Track 10,11,12; Track Captain 12
Bojana Kljajic — Student Manager (Basketball) 9,10
Mirjana Kljajic — Basketball 9,10; Class Government 12; Soccer 11,12; Softball 10,11; SADD 12
Amy Marie Kochek — Band 9,10,11,12; German Club 10; SADD 12
Amanda Komenda — HERO 12; Teacher's Aide 9; Yearbook 11
Kris Komenich — Auto Shop 11,12; Office Aide 12; Teacher's Aide 11









Paul Koteski — National Honor Society 11,12; Prom Court 11
Michael Koteles










Irene Kourtesis — Drama Club 12; Fall Play 12; SADD 11; Yearbook 12
Kevin Matthew Koves — Academic Superbowl 10,11; Band 9,10,11,12; Class Government 10,11,12; Jazz Impact 11,12; Jazz Impressions 10; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12
Kimberly Kozub
Kimberly Krizman — National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Track 9






Derek Lamprecht — Building Trades 12
Elizabeth Largent — Band 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 12; Fall Play 12; Office Aide 12
Katie Larson
Breanna LaTulip — Teacher's Aide 9,12






David Lee — HERO 12; Office Aide 11
Sarah Lenker
Jennifer N. Leonard — Choir 9,10,11; Creative Writing Club 9,10,11; Music Synthesizer 12; Newspaper 10,11; Photography 10,12; Yearbook 12
Erik Lesko — Building Trades 11,12; Football 9






Roy Lewis — Building Trades 12; Football 12
Mike Liess — Football 9,10,11,12; Golf 9
Jim Longhi
Leah Lopez — Choir 9,10; Gary Career Center 11






Sonia Lopez
Michael Lord — Cheerleading 11,12; Choir 9; Football 9; Show Choir 10,11,12; Soccer 10,11
Joseph Lowe
Lindsey Ann Lubovich — Band 9,10,11,12; Drumline 9,10,11,12; Jazz Impressions 12; Orchestra Winds 12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Percussion Ensemble 11,12; Poetry Club 9; Teacher's Aide 11; Winter Drumline 12




Meredith S. Lucas — Cheerleading 9,10,11,12; Choir 9; French Club 11,12; Homecoming Court (Football) 12; National Honor Society 11,12; National Honor Society Officer 12; Prom Court 11; Quill and Scroll 12; Senior Student Senate 12; Softball 9,10,11,12; SADD 9; Teacher's Aide 10; Volleyball 9,10,11,12; Volleyball Captain 12; Yearbook 12
Jesse Owen Luttinen — Teacher's Aide 12

Seniors

John Lynn
Terrie Maddox — Choir 9,10,11,12; Office Aide 9,10; Revue 10; Show Choir 10,11,12; Soccer 9,12; Vocal Teens 10,11,12
Danny Madison
Jimmie Mallard






Vincent Paul Mañara — Choir 9; WITT 12
Andrew Marcus
Brandon Marcus
Melissa Ann Maretich — Choir 9,10,11; Key Club 9; Yearbook 12






Chelssa Martin — Academic Superbowl 11,12; French Club 11
Chylah Martin
Michael Lee Mays — Environmental Club 9,10,11,12; Football 9,10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Teacher's Aide 12; Wrestling 9,10,11,12; Wrestling Captain 12
Tamia McCarley






Schenell Minei McClendon — Choir 9,10; Softball 11; Spanish Club 12; SADD 12; Student Trainer (Basketball, Football) 9,10,11; Track 9; Vocal Teens 10; WITT 11,12
Tearren McDowell — Basketball 9,10; Class Officer 9; Homecoming Court(Football) 9; Homecoming Princess (Basketball) 10
Brianne Marie McGee — Band 9,10; National Honor Society 11,12; Dance Team 9,10,11,12; Spring Musical 9; SADD 9,10; Teacher's Aide 12
Jason D. McGee — Choir 9,10,11,12; Cross Country 9,10,11,12; Cross Country Captain 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Show Choir 11,12; Spring Musical 11; Teacher's Aide 9,12; Track 9,10,11,12
Michael McLindon — Football 9,10; Teacher's Aide 12
Kristie D. McMillan — Band 9,10,11; Basketball 9; Debate 9; Peer Mediator 10; Track 9,12
Michele Meacham
Mark Megyesi — Basketball 9,10,11; Class Government 12; Football 9,10,11; Senior Senate 12; Soccer 11,12






Irene Menchaca — Class Officer 12; FCA 11; FEA 11,12; Key Club 11,12; Key Club Officer 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Natural Helpers 11,12; Senior Student Senate 12; Spanish Club 11,12; SADD 10,11,12; Student Government 10,11,12; Volleyball 9,10,11,12; Volleyball Captain 12; WITT 11,12
Michelle Lee Merkelis — Academic Decathlon Team 11,12; Future Educators of America 9,10,11,12; FEA Officer 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Quiz Bowl Team 11






Seniors






Brian Merritt — Auto Shop 11,12
Nicholas Michelin — Football 9,10,11,12; Office Aide 11; Track 12; Wrestling 9,10,12
Ryan Midkiff — Swimming 9,10,11,12; Track 12
Steve Miljus — Football 9,10,11,12






Juston Miller — Band 9,10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Wrestling 9,10,11,12; Wrestling Captain 12
Maurice Lauis Miller — Football 11; Basketball 9,10,11
Gretchen Minchuk
Daniel Mola






Dawn Molchan — Band 9,10,11,12; Diving 9,10,11,12; Diving Captain 12; Student Trainer (Football) 10,11,12
Rameses Montgomery
Jessica Moreno — Drama Club 9; Pirate Radio 9; PNN 9; SADD 12; Yearbook 12
Armalita Marié Muro — Cross Country 10,11,12; Cross Country Captain 12; Key Club 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Natural Helpers 11,12; Office Aide 12; Peer Helper 12; Student Government 12; Teens for Christ 11; Track 9,10,11; Volleyball 9






Erica Patrice Murphy — Basketball 9,10; HERO 9,10; Black Student Union 9
Victoria Murphy — Student Government 12; Volleyball 9
Marjan Muvceski — National Honor Society 11,12
Rachel Najdzin — National Honor Society 11,12






Stephen Nason — Pirate Radio 12; PNN 11,12; Senior Video 12
Jamie Nadine Nelson — Cheerleading 9,10; Cheerleading Captain 9; Drama Club 10; French Club 11; Dance Team 11,12; Dance Team Captain 11; SADD 9,10
Mindi Nelson — Choir 9; Fellowship of Christian Athletes 9,10,11,12; Key Club 9; Teacher's Aide 11,12
Dan Niksch — Basketball 9; Swimming 12; Track 9,10,11,12




Jason S. Nolan — Football 9,10,11,12; Football Captain 12; Teacher's Aide 10,12; Wrestling 9
Keith D. Norment, Jr. — Baseball 10; Basketball 9; Choir 9; Teacher's Aide 12

Seniors

Ihuoma Fubian Nwabeke — Choir 12
Wayne O'Brien
Jennifer Rae Okichich — Band 9,10,11,12; Student Trainer (Football & Basketball) 9,10,11,12; Swimming 9,10,11,12
Nnanna Onyeka — Band 9,10,11,12

Reneé Michelle Ortega — Band 9,10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; SADD 12; Swimming 9
Jennifer Nicole Orze — Basketball 9,10,11,12; Natural Helpers 12; Peer Mediator 9,10,11,12; Softball 9,10,11,12; Student Government 9,10; Teacher's Aide 10; Volleyball 9,10,11
Michael Orzechowicz
Ebonée Monique Pace — Basketball 10; Color Guard 10,11; Environmental Club 10,11,12; Newspaper 10,11,12; Quill and Scroll 10,11,12; SADD 9,10,11; Student Manager (Football) 12; Teacher's Aide 10,12; Track 9,10,12; Volleyball 9,10

John Michael Edwin Padberg — Band 9,10,11,12; German Club 9,10,11; Jazz Impact 10,11,12; Revue 12; Soccer 11,12
Dena Panayi — Athletic Office Aide 12; SADD 11; Yearbook 12
Michael Patikas
Joel Patterson

Cassandra Pavlovich — Cheerleading 9,10; Diving 9,10,11,12; Diving Captain 12; Swimming 9,10,11,12; Swimming Captain 12
Andrew Brian Pawlowski — Basketball 9; Soccer 9,10,11,12
Clinton L. Pearson — Baseball 12
Eileen Crystal Peden — Band 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 12; Jazz Impact 10,11,12; Jazz Impressions 12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Revue 11,12; Teacher's Aide 10

Robert Erik Perez — Choir 9,10,11,12; Debate 9,10; Environmental Club 9; Merrillville Community School Board 11,12; Pirate Radio 9,10; PNN 9,10,11,12; Revue 11; Show Choir 10,12; Speech Team 9,10; Student Advisory Committee 10,11,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Track 11,12; Vocal Teens 10,12; WMHS Productions 9,10,11,12; WMHS Productions Producer 10,11,12
Cheryl Renä Perkins — Choir 9; Inspirational Choir 11,12; Key Club 10; National Honor Society 11,12; Quest Club 10; Spanish Club 10; Student Government 12; WITT 12
Shane Peschke — Band 9,10,11; PNN 9,10
Amy Gerri Petruch — Band 9,10,11,12; Track 9,10,11,12

Diane Tamika Petty — Choir 11,12
Brandon Philip Pierson



Seniors






Rachael Pitiler — Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 9,10,11; Color Guard 10,11,12; French Club 9,10; JETS 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Revue 9,10,12; Spring Musical 9,10,12; Thespians 9,10; Track 11

Amy Elizabeth Pivovarnik — Band 9,10,11,12; Concert Band 9; Cross Country 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 12; Fall Play 12; Color Guard 10; Jazz Impact 12; Jazz Impressions 11; Kids on the Block Puppeteer 12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Swimming 9; Symphonic Band 10,11; Symphonic Winds 12; Track 9,10,11,12

Jennifer Plys — Drama Club 9; Key Club 9,10,11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Track 9

Brian Polak — HERO 12






Kelly Polonczyk — Fall Play 9; Orchestra 9,10,11,12

Nichole Kortini Pounds — Fall Play 9,10,11,12; Fellowship of Christian Athletes 9,10,11; FCCLA 9,10; Newspaper 11; Office Aide 9,10,11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Spring Musical 9,10,11,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12

Robert Prentoski — Cross Country 10,11,12; Cross Country Captain 12; Teacher's Aide 12; Track 9,10,11,12

David Price






Erik Price

Nathan Pritchard — JETS 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Student Government 10,11,12; Student Government Officer 11; Swimming 9,10,11,12; Swimming Captain 10,11,12

Dante Pritchett

James Edward Procter, Jr. — Band 9,10,11,12; Jazz Impact 10,11; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Spell Bowl Team 11






Aleia Rambert

Daniel Ramirez

Jennifer Ramirez — Choir 9; Cross Country 9,10,11,12; Natural Helpers 9,10,11,12; Newspaper 11; Quill and Scroll 11; Show Choir 11,12; Spring Musical 11; SADD 10,11,12; Student Government 12; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Velveteens 10

Melissa Marie Ramirez — Class Government 9,10,11,12; Class Historian 10,11,12; Commencement Planning Committee 12; Future Educators of America 9,10,11,12; Future Educators of America Officer 11,12; FCCLA 9,10; Color Guard 10,11,12; Color Guard Captain 11,12; Newspaper 11; Office Aide 11; Quill and Scroll 11; Revue 12; Speech Team 10; SADD 10; Student Government 9; Teacher's Aide 12






Veronica Ramirez — Band 9,10,11,12; Environmental Club 9; Color Guard 9,10; SADD 12; Teacher's Aide 12

Renee Rachelle Ramos — Homecoming Court (Football) 12; Homecoming Queen(Football) 12; National Honor Society 11,12; PNN 12; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Track 9,10,11,12

Lonnie Randolph

John Rangel, Jr. — Key Club 10; Wrestling 11,12




Mary Rassbach

Kyle Ratkovich — Band 9; Drama Club 10; WMHS Productions 9

Seniors

Akhila Reddy
George Reed — Football 9
Charles Daniel Reilly — Choir 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 11; Newspaper 9,11; Show Choir 10,11,12; Spring Mnsical 10,11; Vocal Teens 11,12
Cynthia M. Reyna — Teacher's Aide 12






Nathanael David Reynolds — Academic Decathlon Team 12; Basketball 9; Golf 11
Aaron Rice
Tracey Marie Rico — Choir 9,10,11,12; Show Choir 11,12; Spring Musical 11; SADD 11
Sha'Ria Roberson






Tim Roberts, Jr. — Band 9,10; Office Aide 11
Bryan Robertson
Vincent Romero
Jeffrey Miles Roth — Band 9,10,11,12; Cheerleading (Mascot) 12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Drum Major 11,12; Fall Play 10,11,12; Jazz Impact 11; Jazz Impressions 10; Kids on the Block 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11; Revue 10,12; Spring Musical 9,10,11,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Student Government Officer 11; Swimming 9,10; Thespians 9,10,11,12






Cassandra Rounds — Choir 10; Office Aide 12
Keith Roy — Baseball 10; Wrestling 10
Aimee Ruder — Band 9,10,11,12; Cross Country 9,10,11,12; Cross Country Captain 12; Color Guard 10; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 11,12; Peer Tutor 12; Solo & Ensemble 9,10,11,12; Track 9,10,11,12
Amber Ruisard — Basketball 9; French Club 11,12; Key Club 12; National Honor Society 11,12






Bret Eric Sager — Academic Decathlon Team 12; Band 9,10,11,12; Creative Writing Club 10,11,12; Creative Writing Club Officer 12; Jazz Impact 11,12; Jazz Impressions 10; JETS 11; National Honor Society 11,12; Teacher's Aide 11
Tiffany Lynn Sajdera — Future Educators of America 12; Key Club 9; National Honor Society 11,12; SADD 10; Student Government 12; Student Manager(Tennis) 12; Student Manager(Volleyball) 11; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Volleyball 9,10
Danny Salazar
Kasey Rae Samson — Cross Country 10,11,12; Drama Club 9,12; Fall Play 12; Color Guard 10,11; Key Club 9,10,11,12; Key Club Officer 11,12; Kids on the Block 12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Revue 12; Speech Team 12; SADD 10; Student Government 10; Teacher's Aide 12; Thespians 9; Track 9,10,11,12






Vanessa Santamaria
Victor Sawyer






Steven Schaab
Daniel Schroers — Building Trades 11,12
Steven Schroers
Kevin Schulz

Tony Semovski
Kathy Shawver
Melissa Shawver — Drama Club 11
Dustin Shea — JETS 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12

Jason Dale Shelton — Cross Country 9,10,11,12; Cross Country Captain 12; Key Club 9,10; Pirate Radio 9; PNN 9; Teacher's Aide 11,12; Track 9,10,12
Tiffany Shelton — Choir 9,10,11; HERO 12; Key Club 9
James P. Shoemaker III
Jessica Shotts — Basketball 9,10; Golf 10; National Honor Society 11,12; Softball 10

Lothar Sickles — Business Professionals of America 11; Choir 9; Inspirational Choir 10,11,12; Key Club 9; Revue 10,11,12; Track 11; WITT 10,11
Tabitha Silva
Dan Simones — Newspaper 12
Chris Simunjak — Building Trades 11,12

Megan Skorupa — Gymnastics 9,10,11,12; Gymnastics Captain 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Track 9,10
John R. Slavik — Choir 9; Show Choir 10,11,12
Courtney A. Smith — PNN 10
Janice Smith — Choir 9,10; National Honor Society 11,12; Student Manager (Football) 9,10,11,12; Tutor 12; Velveteens 10

Kimberly N. Smith — Choir 9; Golf 12; JETS 12; Key Club 10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Student Manager (Girls' Track) 10,11,12
Scott Smoljan — Baseball 9,10,11,12; Baseball Captain 10; Basketball 9,10,11; Basketball Captain 9,10,11

Seniors

Christopher Sohacki
Dawn Somers — Choir 9,10,11; Creative Writing Club 9,11,12; Drama Club 9,11; Key Club 9; Newspaper 10; Pirate Radio 10; Spanish Club 9,10,11
Sase Sotiroski
Stephanie Spangler — Choir 10; Dance Team 12; SADD 9,10,12; Teacher's Aide 12






Severina L. Spivey — Band 9,10,11,12; Drumline 12; Future Educators of America 12; Key Club 9,10; Student Government 12; Teacher's Aide 11; Winter Drumline 12
Erick Stanley
Jillian Marie Stasiak — Natural Helpers 9,10; Peer Helper 11; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Student Manager (Wrestling) 10,11
Sharonda Stewart






Amy Stillson — HERO 12
Rebecca Stites
Richard Stoffle
Chuck Stojakovich — Choir 9; Show Choir 10,11,12






Marcus Styles
Mali Suetrong — Commencement Planning Committee 12; Drama Club 11,12; FCCLA 10,12; National Honor Society 11, 12; Spell Bowl 10,11; Student Government 11,12; Track 12
Ashley Lynn Suggs — Cheerleading 9,10,11,12; Cheerleading Captain 9; Choir 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 9; Revue 12; Show Choir 12; Spring Musical 11; WITT 12
Priscilla Suzuki — Spanish Club 12; WITT 12






Nicole Sweeney — Cheerleading 9,10,11,12; Homecoming Court (Football) 12; Homecoming Court(Basketball) 9; National Honor Society 11,12; Prom Committee 11; Prom Court 11; Senior Senate 12; SADD 9,10,11,12; SADD Officer 12; Student Government 12
Jillian Marie Swisher — Creative Writing Club 11; Drama Club 9; Art Club 9
Aubrey Anne Szany — Cross Country 11,12; Color Guard 10,11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Peer Mentor 12; Track 11,12
Jeffrey L. Talbot — Office Aide 9; Prom Court 11; Soccer 9,10; Wrestling 9,10,11
Lacretia Tatum — Band 9,10; Swimming 10
Koree Thomas — Creative Writing Club 12; Office Aide 11









Seniors






Keith M. Thomason — Band 9
Samaria Ne'Kay Thompson — Band 9,10,11,12; Class Government 10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Natural Helpers 9,10,11,12; Volleyball 9; W.I.T.T. 12
Jessica Todd — HERO 11,12
Israel Toledo






Nicole M. Tomko — Class Government 9,10,11,12; Color Guard 10,11; Color Guard Captain 12; Revue 12; SADD 10,11; Track 9,10
Antunette Torrence — Inspirational Choir 11
Marina Trajkovski — Teacher's Aide 12
Jennifer Kay Turoci — National Honor Society 11






Steven Turoci
Rosa Uribe — HERO 12; Prom Court 11; SADD 11; Yearbook 11
Joseph James Utofka IV — Ambassador 9; Art Club 11; HERO 11,12; Office Aide 9; Teacher's Aide 11
Marisa Cristina Valdez — Academic Superbowl 9,10,11,12; Band 9,10,11,12; Jazz Impact 10,11; National Honor Society 11,12; National Honor Society Officer 12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Speech Team 12; Spell Bowl Team 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 10






Kyle Van Winkle — Band 9,10,11; Baseball 10,11,12
Amanda Michelle Vargo — Choir 9,10,11,12; Key Club 9,10,11,12; Key Club Officer 12; Office Aide 12
Alex Vasileski — Baseball 9,10; Basketball 9,10,11,12; Basketball Captain 12; Football 9; French Club 10; Office Aide 12; Prom Court 11; Student Government 9,10; Teacher's Aide 12
Virginia F. Vela — Choir 9; Cross Country 9,10,11; FCCLA 9; Homecoming Court (Football) 9; Key Club 10; Teacher's Aide 12






Dan A. Villarreal — Building Trades 12
Jon Virgo — Orchestra 9,10,11,12
Kyle A. Vrotny — Baseball 9; Choir 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Drama Club Officer 12; Fall Play 10; PNN 12; Revue 11,12; Show Choir 10,11,12; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Spring Musical 9,10,11; Teacher's Aide 10,11,12; Thespians 10,11,12; Vocal Teens 10,11,12
April Wagonblast




Calvin Wallace
Christina Walls — HERO 12

Seniors

Holly Elizabeth Walsh — Ambassador 9; HERO 12
Julie Ann Watson — Teacher's Aide 12
Amy Lynn Watts — Choir 9,10,11,12; French Club 10,11; National Honor Society 11,12; Show Choir 11,12; Spring Musical 11; SADD 9,10; Vocal Teens 12
Ashley S. Weems — Choir 9; Inspirational Choir 11,12; Office Aide 10; Revue 11






Tiffany White — Basketball 9; French Club 10,11; Soccer 10,11,12; Student Government 11,12; Student Manager (Wrestling) 11
Christopher Shelby Williams — Football 9; Soccer 10; Wrestling 9
Karyl Willson — Choir 9,10; Hero 12; National Honor Society 12; Student Trainer 9,10; Teacher's Aide 10
Whitney Wills






Adam Wilson — Football 9,10,11,12



Seniors

Carlos Baez — Track 11

Issac Brown— Basketball 9; Choir 9,10,11,12

Raymond C. Bell, Jr.

Jonathan Bell

Natosha Benton — Business Professionals of America 11,12; Dance Team 10,11; Dance Team Captain 11; Softball 10,11; Track 9

Matthew Brums — Art Club 9,10,11; Orchestra 9,10

Christopher Conn

Harrison T. Doan

Risto Doneski

Brandon Dravet

Nikola Drljaca

Ali El-Omar

Daniel Ellinger

Chris Fesko

Kelvena Ford

Christina Garza

Lorenzo Gayton

Steven Goin

Nicolas Gonzalez

Eliot Green

Cordelia Greenleaf — Drama Club 9; SADD 10,11

Chris Gregory — Football 9,10,11; Office Aide 10; Swimming 10; Wrestling 11

Ashley Hamilton

Maria Herrera

Vanessa Hrebenyak

Tochukwu George Ibekie — Basketball 12; Delegate at Hoosier Boys' State

Michael Inthisane

Donnetta James — Track 12

Jason Jemenko

Cynthia Karabetsos

Jarrett Kelly — Band 9,10,11,12; Track 11,12

Mike Koldus

Whitney Lake — Diving 11,12

Servando Madrigal

Marshall Garrett

Seniors











Thomas Wimbish Jr. — Band 9,12; Building Trades 11,12
Cori Wimmer — Choir 9,10,11; Creative Writing Club 10; Show Choir 12; Spring Musical 11; Student Manager (Football & Wrestling) 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12
Brandi Wright — Soccer 9,10
Tim Wright

Jason A. Yagelski — Baseball 11,12; Building Trades 12
Tiffany Yates — Fall Play 10; Key Club 10; Peer Helper 12; Teacher's Aide 12
Anastasia Yiatras — SADD 11; Teacher's Aide 10
Linda Maria Zamora

Michael Patrick Zelisko — Band 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Newspaper 11; Pirate Radio 9; PNN 9,10; Revue 11,12; Speech Team 11; Spring Musical 9,10,11,12; Thespians 10,11,12; WMHS Productions 9,10

Not Pictured

Jonathan Mazur

Karen McFerrin

Melissa Miodragovic

Kathryn Murray

Candace Nelson

Ramon Nieves

Annalisa Nuzzo

Christina Peete — Basketball 9,10,11,12; Basketball Captain 12

Joanna Raquel Ponce

Riste Ristevski

Michael Robinson

Aaron Luis Rodriguez — Pirate Radio 11; Student Government 12; Teacher's Aide 11,12

Peter Sierra — Band 9,10,11,12; Diving 10,11,12; Soccer 11; Spanish Club 10; Swimming 9,10,11,12; Tennis 10

Stefanie Smalfus

Joseph P. Snelson — Band 9,10; Newspaper 9

Kristen Ashley Snyder — Drama Club 12; SADD 11

Denairo Spann

Thomas Stevens — March of Dimes 11,12

Keith Strehler

Jesus Tafoya

Craig D. Taylor — Basketball 9; Football 9; Spanish Club 10

Steven Taylor

Gregoria Valencia

Duane Wade

Brandon Walker

Jerraé Walker — Wrestling 11,12

John D. Williams — Academic Decathlon Team 9,10,11; Academic Super Bowl 9,10,11; Baseball 11,12; Cross Country 9; Debate 9,10,11,12; German Club 9,10,11; Robotics Team 11; Science Olympiad 9,10; Speech Team 9,10,11,12; Spell Bowl Team 9,10; SADD 9,10,11; Student Government 9,10,11,12

Michelle Woolley

Crystal Woolwine — Choir 9,10,11; Flag Corps 9,10,11; HERO 12

Class of 2002

Outgoing Julie Lesniak keeps herself busy at MHS



Julie Lesniak is an outgoing junior at Merrillville High. Julie has a lot going on in school. She is involved in many after school activities, including choir, JETS, French Club and sports, playing varsity tennis. She also participates in the March of Dimes charity walk in March.

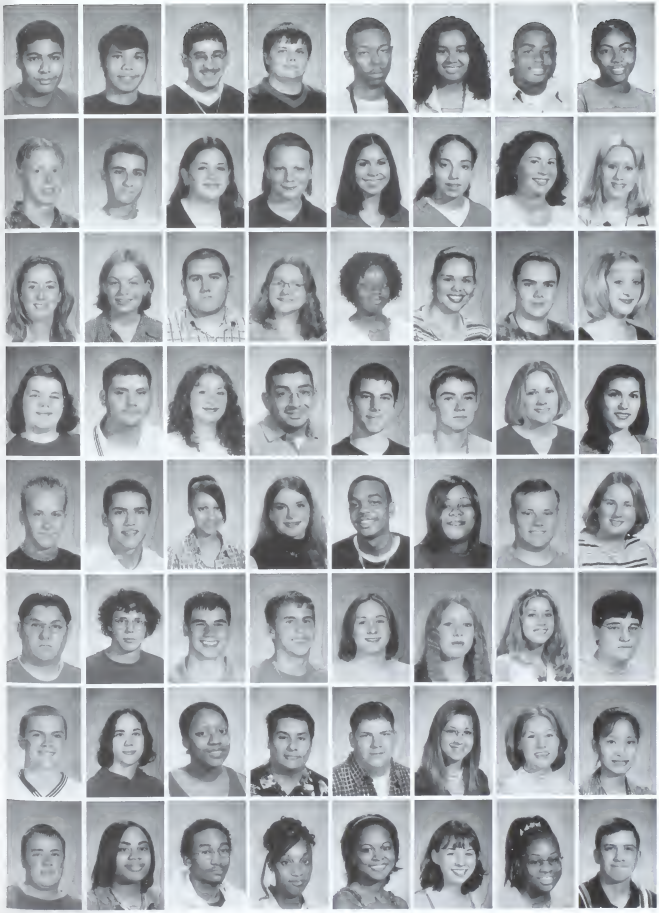
Even though this hardworking student has so many activities going on, that does not stop her from having fun in her spare time. Julie has a boyfriend, works at K-mart and loves playing tennis for fun. On the weekends she loves to hang out with her friends and go out with her boyfriend.

In the near future Julie plans to attend Purdue University in West Lafayette or Indiana University in Bloomington. She plans to study for Pharmacy Clinical.

After college she plans to become a pharmacist. After she gets her career going, she plans to get married and start a family.

Julie describes herself as a happy, nice and spirited person. She feels that she is shy around people she doesn't know.

—Kortina Gates



Syed Aftab
Joshua Agne
Richard Agosto
Joseph Aigner
Taiwan Alford
Tiffany Alleman
Eugene Allen
Tiffany Allen

Anthony Allison
Matthew Aloia
Gabriela Alvarez
Michael Ammerlohen
Esperanza Anaya
Anelida Aponte
Sarah Argenta
Samantha Argue

Kristina Artibey
Amber Ashe
James Ashe
Emilee Ashley
Vanessa Ashley-Mensah
Sarita Ayala
Robert Banks
Lorin Barman

Kathy Barnes
Adrian Barrera
Megan Barry
Jose Benevente
Joshua Berk
Jason Berry
Lisa Bewley
Nicole Birmingham

Matthew Bishop
Allen Bobowsky
La Donna Boulbree
Tamara Bowen
David Brown
Erica Brown
Matthew Brown
Megan Brown

Dean Brummet
Jerry Brunn
Jonathan Budz
Michael Bunnell
Amanda Burden
Melissa Burress
Michelle Busse
Jason Camisa

Robert Campbell
Vicky Cantrell
Rachel Caruthers
Carlos Casanova
Joshua Cassotay
Krystal Catania
Sarah Certa
Chia Chiang

Emil Ciona Jr.
Shakeila Clark
Shawn Clark
Kim Clemons
Brittany Cobb
Kristina Coburn
Crystal Coleman
Kenneth Coleman

Matthew Collins
Seandra Collins
Javan Comer
Sarah Conquest
Santino Cordilia
Erin Coughlin
Ryan Craft
Clarice Craig

Duren Cudjoe
Matthew Cunningham
Justin Curtis
Katherine Czulak
Lara Dabis
Kristopher Dabu
Nicholas Dallas
Monique Darden

Hiatal Dave
Tiffaney Davis
Zachary Davis
Jessica Decker
Gustavo Del Real
Danessa DeLaCruz
Arul Demnie
Robert Denvit

Timothy Denvit
William Denvit
Kenneth Detterline
Damien Dilbone
Bianca Dillon
Randolph Dillon
Leah Dixon
Ksenija Djukic

Thomas Dobes
Anna Doko
Pere Dorsuleski
Wesley Doty Jr.
Christopher Drapeau
Dathan Echols
Terrence Eckrich
Lunetta Ellison

Amanda Elser
Monique Emmons
Albert Escobedo
Daniel Estes
Joshua Everett
Nicholas Fisher
Jennifer Fizer
Kristina Fleck

Oswaldo Flores
Katie Floyd
Lisa Frallinger
Ginger Francis
Michael Francis
Kelli Fravel
Casey Frey
Julia Frey

Kenneth Frey
Megan Furlo
Christopher Gabriel
Tiffany Gallegos
Jennifer Garcia
Nancy Garcia
Kenita Garner
Alkia Gavin



What is your point of view on the "Respect" theme?



"It's a good idea because there are many people in this school that do not care about respect."
Manolis Olandezos, '02



"I think respect is an excellent idea because other schools look up to Merrillville as one of the best schools in northwest Indiana."
Jimmy Karamacoski, '02



"I think it's a very good thing for our school because it teaches students discipline."
Elizabeth Ilevski, '02



"Respect should have been learned at home, I think it's a little too late to teach it at school."
Evelyn Tyrikos, '02



Laura Gestring
Larry Gibbons
Stephen Gill
Joy Gilmore
Jason Giordano
Zlatica Gjoreski
Sharon Glaze
Karina Gomez

Oscar Gomez
Elena Gonzalez
Jessica Gonzalez
Stephanie Gonzalez
Keith Gough
Jason Grace
Aaron Green
Candace Greenleaf

Tawana Greer
Scott Gregory
Karen Gresh
Renee Griggs
Brittany Grimmer
Samantha Grzesik
Tamara Grzesik
Adam Guajardo

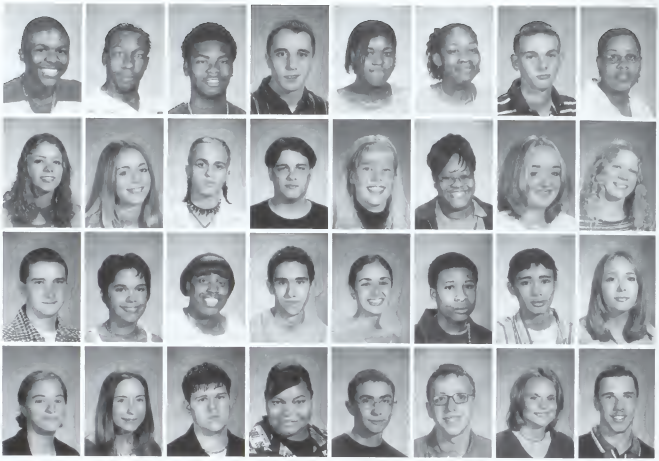
Tim Gust
Hasan Hafiz
Jeffrey Halaschak
Sandra Halbe
Juan Hall
Janice Hallenbeck
Michael Halligan
Rachel Hammond

Marlon Hanley
Jonathan Harris
Nathan Harris
Joshua Harvoth
Chaya Hayes
Shevrie Haynes
Christopher Hebert
Elizabeth Henderson

Nicole Herrera
Jacquelyn Highsmith
Ronald Holley
Andrese Holmes
Lauren Homola
Stacey Hooks
Jayne Horan
Heather Huish

Robert Huish
Cynthia Hunke
Kayendra Hunter
David Husek
Elizabeth Ilecki
Phillip Ingram
Daniel Inthisane
Mirka Ivanova

Kristine Jackonis
Jennifer Jackowski
Arthur Jackson
Ashlie Jacobs
Matthew Jagiela
Mike Janezko
Jennifer Jansen
Jonathan Jasinski





Brandon Meekin's, '02, tired face says all. He's ready to take a quick break during class.



Theresa Sciaccotta, '02, Jayson Villars, '02, and Samantha Grzesik, '02, enjoy a passing period as they stop to hang with friends.



James Johnson
Joseph Johnson
Justin Johnson
Nicole Jolly
Erika Jones
Ernestine Jones
Amanda Joslyn
Jeffrey Julkes

Joseph Jurisa
Dimce Karamacoski
Amy Kaste
Stacey Kavois
Crystal Kedziora
Jonathan Kelsey
Tyannah King
Jamie Kirby

Nicholas Klebs
Jamisyn Kloth
Martina Knight
Deirdre' Knobbe
Christopher Kors
Mark Koves
Dana Kraska
Jillian Kucik

Matthew Lancaster
Riley Larimore
Sondra Lazoski
Jane Lee
Christopher Lesniak
Julie Lesniak
Kevin Lewis
Lanikka Lewis

Daniel Lexsa
Ashley Liddell
Valerie Lipp
Joseph Llano
Lisa Lopez
Quinton Lott
Mitchell Lynn
Marc Maple

Joseph Marlow
Morgan Marowich
Markeyta Martin
Melissa Matsey
Meghan Mauman
Jennifer Mc Cann
Bonita Mc Carley
Edward Mc Colhun

Joe Mc Knight
Michael Mc Laughlin
Sophia Mc Leod
Anthony Mc Lucas
Maegan Mc Phee
Brandon Mc Vade
Danielle Meadows
Jeffrey Meding

Brandon Meekin
Jessica Menchaca
Melissa Mihal
Adam Milicevic
Joseph Milledge
Kara Miller
Jacob Minnick
Alexander Mirin

Staci Misiadek
Nathaniel Mitchell
Danielle Molehan
Rachel Moody
Ryan Moore
Michael Morawska
Christopher Morgan
Erin Morgan

Erik Morris
Eric Morrone
Gerald Mosley
Joseph Mustafa
Mariana Naglosky
Christopher Nahlik
Jaclyn Natupikas
Nikija Neely

David Neville III
Lisa Newell
Delia Nevlon
Luke Nienhaus
Theresa Nixon
Olivia Nounou
Flora Nunes
Laureri Nuzzo

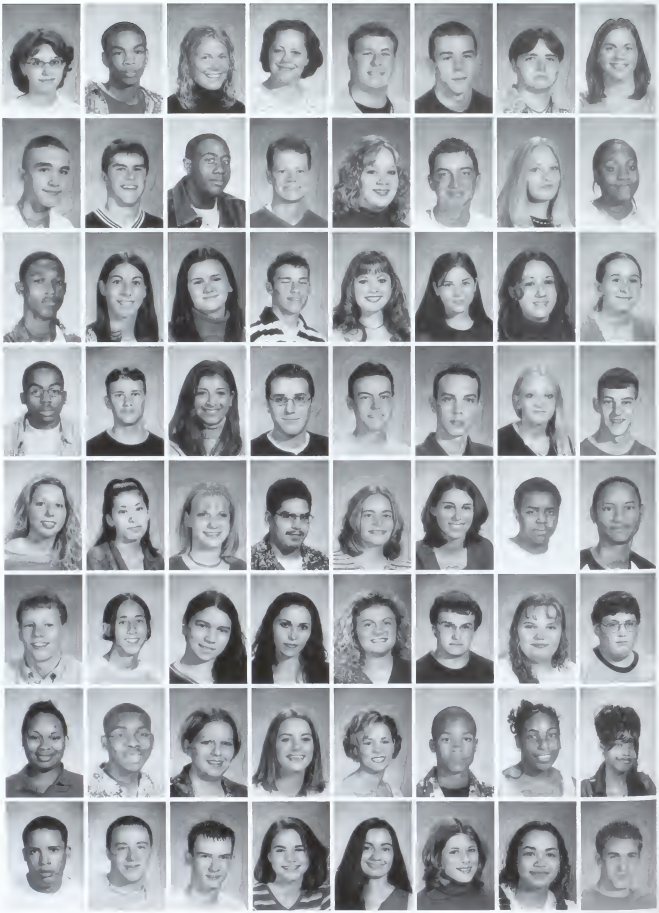
Clifford O'Neil
Michael O'Reilly
Olivia Obregon
Manolis Olandezos
Craig Olis
Shaun Ortiz
Shannon Orton
Nathan Osborne

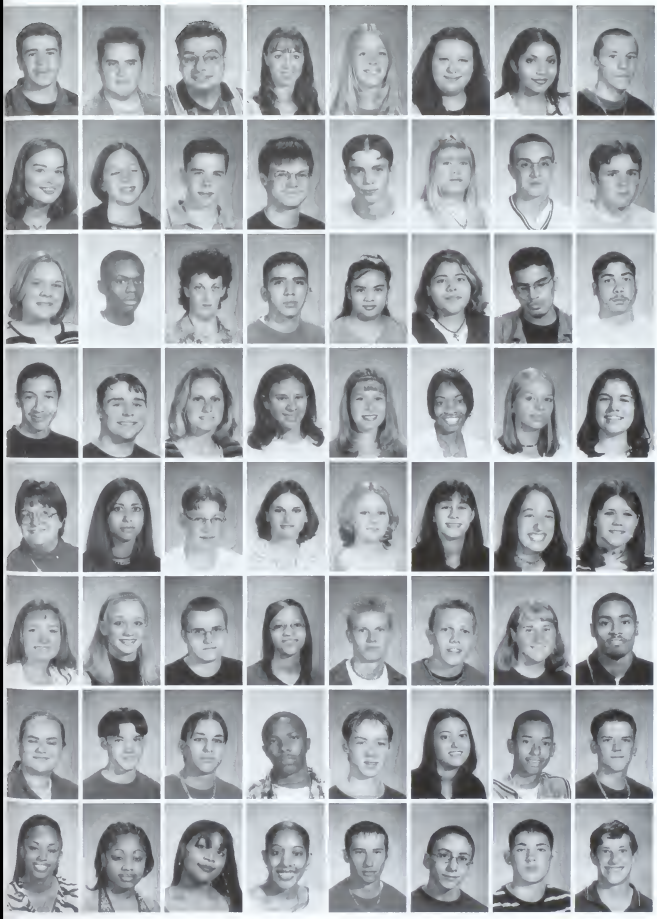
Amanda Pagel
Krystal Palacios
Taylor Palmateer
Myle Palumno
Amanda Panning
Sarah Papp
Jermell Parrish
Phillip Patterson Jr.

Clifford Payo
Zachary Pearman
Lauren Pena
Claudia Perez
Kelly Pero
David Perry
Kim Perry
Tim Perry

Veronnica Phelps
Jason Pierce
Amanda Pivovarnik
Aimee Plukas
Kelly Polster
Claude Powers
Ronisha Pratt
Cathryn Presley

Seneca Price
David Pritt
Gregory Pucher
Lindsay Pumnea
Diana Quintanilla
Danielle Ragon
April Ramirez
Timothy Randolph





Joshua Reberg
Justin Reed
Gregory Refner
Colleen Regan
Heather Reinehan
Felecia Renner
Amy Reyna
Joseph Reyna

Amanda Ricchio
Melissa Richards
Robert Richards
James Riddle
Simon Ristevski
Samantha Roaden
Brendan Roberts
Nick Roberts

Amy Robertson
Brenton Robinson
Rebecca Robinson
Michael Rodriguez
Myra Rodriguez
Sandra Rodriguez
Sergio Rodriguez
Arturo Rodriquez

Felix Roman
Ryan Romeo
Lisa Ross
Maya Rothstein
Carey Ruckman
Emirelle Rumph
Jennifer Ruschak
Melissa Rusell

Amanda Rysiewicz
Carla Sabo
Kevin Sager
Kelly Samson
Stephanie Samuels
Melissa Sanchez
Katrese Sawyer
Shannon Schafer

Krystle Scholtens
Theresa Sciaccotta
Brandon Scott
Kristen Scott
Michael Szurko
Joshua Seabrook
Julie Seagraves
Anthony Seay

Sharon Sepulveda
Kyle Shea
David Shells
Norman Sherwood
Stephen Sienicki
Jennifer Sierra
Mario Sims
Keith Smiley

Aleeza Smith
Christian Smith
Lydia Smith
Nina Smith
Chad Snyder
Edward Soltys
Thomas Sovich
Anthony Sparger

Sarah Stackert
Thomas Stephens
Melissa Stewart
John Stojanovski
Delann Stokes
Tim Stoner
Jarmaine Strickland
David Strom

Ann Stupic
Christopher Sullivan
Stephen Summers
Andrew Swiere
Margaret Szczerba
Philip Tanis
Megan Ternes
Joseph Thomas

Kaleena Thomas
Sha'Tonn Thompson
Ashley Tipton
Mirjana Trkulja
Genevieve Tucker
Sarah Turner
Evelyn Tyrikos
Ryan Underhill

John Upshaw
Kristyn Vaillancourt
Matt Valant
Noel Valle Jr.
Kelly Van Der Woude
Melissa Vargas
R. Jeffrey Vargo
Lisa Vartanoff

Ashley Vasaitis
Marissa Vawter
Danny Vechey
Jessica Velez
Amanda Verdeyen
Richard Villareal
Erika Villarreal
Jayson Villars

Cindy Wahlman
Nathan Walker
Derek Wampler
Leah Weatherington
Tiffany Wesley
Roy Wilbanks
Sarina Wilkerson
Brandon Williams

Bryon Williams
Carlette Williams
Casby Williams
Jason Williams
Kevin Williams
Salena Williams
Amy Wilson
Gregory Winn

Timothy Wirtz
Brandon Wise
Christopher Wisner
Erin Wolfe
Michelle Wood
Teresa Woynaroski
Stephanie Wusik
Brian Yack








Ladonna York
Craig Zaremba
Jennifer Zarik
Brian Zilych

Students not pictured

Nicole Alston
Katie Beville
Alexandra Cox
Shaun Crosby
Nedeljko Djordjevic
Kia Freeman
Alan Gavin
Colt Gay
Kathleen Gayda
Nathan Gregory
Deborah Hawkins
Reginald Holt
Jamia-Lyn Hope
Antonio Horton
Donnetta James
Nitosha Jones
Philip Knotts
Dominique Lewis
Garrett Marshall
John Mosley
Joel Patterson
Camelia Pickett



Pete Dorsuleski, '02, and Matt Aloia, '02, walk through the school parking lot to find their car. Many students would rather drive to school, than ride the bus.



Mike Bunnell, '02, and Media Center Director Mr. Joe Poteet search through the passes to find Mike's pass. Students come to the library as a way to get away from the noise in their classes.



Chris Nahlik, '02, pauses for a moment during band practice. He patiently waits for the right moment to start playing again.

Brian Cruz takes a journey into the future



Climbing the ladder from freshman year to senior year can be a journey for anyone. For sophomore Brian Cruz, however, it seems to be a breeze.

Being involved in soccer and varsity diving, he seems to be occupied to his full extent.

"The fans at the meets and my teammates are what keep me going," said Brian.

When not keeping up with the challenging demands of school and heart pumping practices, he likes to spend time with his girlfriend and go out with friends.

Brian's musical collection includes mostly rap and some alternative music. His favorite television show is "The Simpson's."

Getting closer and closer to senior year, Brian has set some long term goals. He plans to graduate and go to college to possibly become an architect, and hopefully, along the way, meet several new people.

—Jayne Horan



Idris Abdul-Hafiz
Jeffery Abrego
Darky Acosta
Erica Adame
Christopher Adams
Christopher Agne
Cory Alder
Patrick Alexander

Christine Alva
Taneshia Amey
Michael Anderson
Nicholas Andreatos
Jacob Appleton
Emeka Arize
Casey Arviso
Kwame Asabere

Jeremiah Ashe
Brian Ashford
Daniel Avery
Shannon Ayers
William Bailey
Alan Baleh
Timothy Balko
William Bandy

Allison Barnet
Christopher Barbauld
Jonathan Barcinski
Chris Bardauld
Dtaniel Barnes
Caleb Bateman
Dana Bellard
Eugene Bellmon

Michael Berta
Kyle Besheers
Paul Best
Joshua Biancardi
Stephanie Bigelow
Christopher Bishop
Ryan Bishop
Miguel Blanco

Brian Boksa
Derek Boldan
Chivon Bonilla
Brandy Booker
Heath Boone
Angela Bowden
Aubrey Brainard
Peter Brasovan

Tiffany Brazlovitz
Shawna Breitenstein
Jocelina Bridges
Sylvester Brooks
Tiffany Brosch
Leon Brown
Shawna Brown
Patrick Buck

Amanda Buddle
Anthony Bukovac
Molly Burt
Jared Byczko
Steven Campbell
Domenica Campos
Scott Cannon
Sarah Cardwell

Jonathan Carter
Lashawn Carter
Tyson Carter
Nikolas Charleston
Arlesia Clanton
Gary Clark
Jennifer Clark
Tameshia Clark

Aaron Clemens
Jennifer Coates
Martin Cole
Tristen Congress
Ignacio Correa
Le'Daniel Cotton
David Coughlin
Amanda Cousino

Philip Craft
Shanell Crittenden
Brian Cruz
Mariel Cruz
Kristina Curtis
Guille Dabu
Kristina Damjanoska
Mitchell Danford

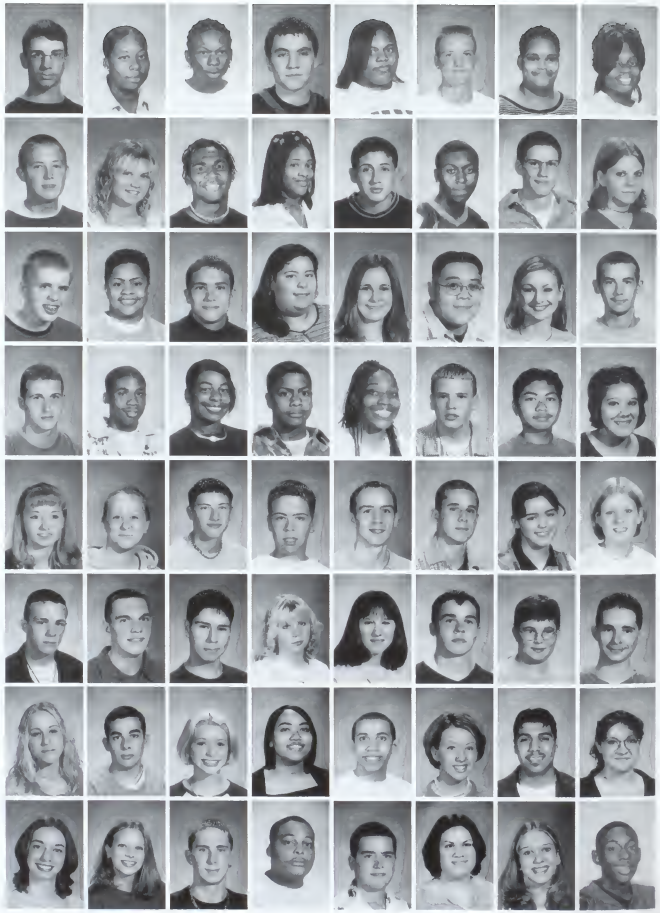
Jarret Darling
Elisha Davis
Karen Davis
Jared Dawson
Demel Dean
David Degard
Josef DeLaCruz
Maria Delreal

Nicole Demeuse
Dominee Deyarmin
Joshua Diaz
Joshua Diehl
Frederick Dobry
Aaron Doeing
Angela Doeing
Dorothy Donley

Bradley Dow
William Downs
Steven Dozas
Jennifer Duggins
Melissa Duttweiler
Kevin Dwyer
Jacob East
Matthew Eckstrom

Krystal Edgington
Wessam El-Omar
Elizabeth Elder
Joi-Lyn Eller
Dane Equihua
Terese Erickson
Michael Escobedo
Rebecca Evans

Jeanette Fabian
Michelle Farley
Kevin Farmer
Rafe Feagin
Todd Ferguson
Veronica Flores
Caitlin Floyd
Jarrell Ford



Where do you think you will be in ten years?



I hope to become a graduate of Michigan State and become a heart surgeon.
Antonio Sablan, '03



I plan on graduating from Prudue University with a degree in Civil Engineering.
Tony Stotko, '03



At a school for Cosmetic Dentistry.
Trevy Ramos, '03



I hope to be graduating from Indiana University with my degree in anesthisiology
Tim Balko, '03



Alysia Fortney
David Frank
Joseph Frasca
Brian Fravel
Marcus Freeland
Donnie Freeman
Michael Frost
Ronda Fruehling

Tamika Fultz
Lindsey Gabriel
Jason Gaffney
Elizabeth Gallinati
Domonique Garibay
Cassandra Garner
Christina Georgevich
Christopher Geruska

Robert Gilmore
Clifford Golon
Cynthia Gonzalez
Michael Gonzalez
Krystal Gonzalez-Roberts
Brandy Grace
Emily Graun
April Graves

Cora Gray
Derek Greenberg
Kristopher Greene
Rute Grezowski
Jennifer Griffin
Stuart Guernsey
Christopher Gutierrez
Jonathan Gutierrez

Jaclyn Hac
Abby Hacker
Christopher Hadt
Kelly Halcarz
Stephanie Hall
Jarrell Hamilton
Damara Hamlin
Nichole Handley










Celia Haro
Breon Harris
James Harris
Raphael Harris
Patrick Harstad
Amber Hauber
Corey Hawkins
Sharon Hawkins










Kareem Haynes
Bryan Head
Jennifer Heidler
Jamarr Henderson
Demetrius Henley
Sabrina Hennessy
Dominique Henry
Jacob Hernandez










Bridgette Heuss
Shalonda Hicks
Joshua Higgins
Michael Hill
Carmellia Hinton
Schmeka Hinton
Matthew Hirjak
Alexandria Hodges












Chris Trapane and Fontaine Stegall, both '03, unite to discuss one of American Literature's several topics.

Peter Brasovan, '03, cuts paper to complete one of many assignments.





Brittany Williams, '03, slices chicken with precise definition.



Trevor Hodges
Timothy Holley
Deanna Howard
Michael Howard
Kevin Hubbard
Mark Huber
Diane Hughes
Megan Hulburt

Christopher Humes
Ebonee Hunter
Carl Hurd
Charles Hurd
Kathleen Hvzy
Dana Izzi
Henry Jackowski III
Franklin Jackson

Kyle Jackson
Stephanie Jackson
TeNita Jamison
Nikolce Janakievska
Christopher Jeter
Corey Johnson
Mykah Johnson
Parker Johnson

Vince Johnson
Jaleen Joiner
Krystal Jones
Paula Jones
Billy Jones Jr.
Joseph Jordan
Brian Jostes
Adam Jovanovich

Dikah Joyner
Ernest Joyner
Damien Jrilkes
James Kelly
Sarah Kennedy
Donavan Kepchar
Corey Kesler
Joshua Kester

Eugene Kezy
Celesta Kimble
Shannan Kimbrough
Nakesha King
Kamberly Kish
Shane Klar
Anthony Klippel
John Knezevich

Jim Knight
Jeanette Koon
Matthew Krysa
Ryan Kucik
Paul Kurczynski
James Kuzminski
Sheryl Kwell
Daniel Kwiatkoski

Bradley Lake
Geoffrey Lalic
Paulo Laorden
Jacob Lasbenik
Andrew Leicht
Joseph LeLoup
James Lennon
James Leonard

Adam Lewis
Donyell Lewis
Jerwuan Lewis
Zerubbabel Lewis
Jacqueline Lipski
Daniel Lopez
Mary Kate Lucas
Richard Luehrs

Crystal Lumpkin
Kara Lux
Michael Mable Jr.
Demetrius Mabon
Tenisdayo Macarthy
Daniel Madura
Naomi Magallan
Emily Mandich

Kimberly Mann
Steven Marcus
Gary Marek
Joscelyn Marquis
Gabriel Martin
Michaela Martin
Yvonne Martinez
Demetria Massengill

Eve Matczak
Michelle Mathewson
Destiny Mathis
Christopher Matson
Rebecca Mc Carty
Heather Mc Coy
Desiree Mc Daniel
William Mc Ghee

Amanda Mc Intire
Wade Mc Kinley
Jamie Mc Laughlin
Lauren Mc Lindon
Ashley McNeil
Kevin McMullin
Shannon Means
Melissa Medanich

Constantine Mileus
Brandon Miller
Mallorie Mitchell
Carl Montgomery
Amanda Moor
Ricardo Moreno
Nicole Morlos
Eric Morris

Keith Murphy
Nicole Murphy
Tara Murphy
Angel Myszkowski
Vangel Nacovski
Matthew Nadolski
John Naglosky IV
Alisha Nalls

Robert Nava
Arlinda Nava-McCain
Claudia Nava-McCain
Monique Navarro
Taryn Neal
Brian Nienhaus
Eric Nolan
Kathryn O'Brien



Jeanette Fabian, '03, shares a laugh with friends while attending the Homecoming dance.



Janet Gates, '03, chats with another student while completing work in one of the school's computer labs.



Terese Ericksen, '03, draws with vibrant colors as she sits in one of the art classes.



Jason O'Hearn
Kelly O'Keefe
Kristina Ojleska
Novan Olcum
Adaku Onyeka
Laura Orozco
Jaime Ortiz
Ray Ortiz

Jesus Palomo
Angela Papamihalakis
Lamonica Parker
Felicia Parks
Nisha Patel
Nicole Patterson
Nicole Paul
Megan Pavl

Gloria Peay
Jessica Peete
Cole Perkins
Christina Peschke
Patrick Petrovich
Pauline Petruch
Amy Petry
Tommy Phifer

Heather Phillippe
Michele Phillips
Armiel Pickett
Chad Pierce
Jennifer Ponce
Jill Porter
Aaron Powell
Rachel Powers

What is your favorite restaurant and why?



I like Steak & Shake because my friends and I always go there and they have good food.
Josh Diehl, '03



My favorite restaurant is Taco Bell because I always make Mary Kate take me there after games.
Diana Hughes, '03



Colorado Steak House because the steaks are really great.
Cole Perkins, '03



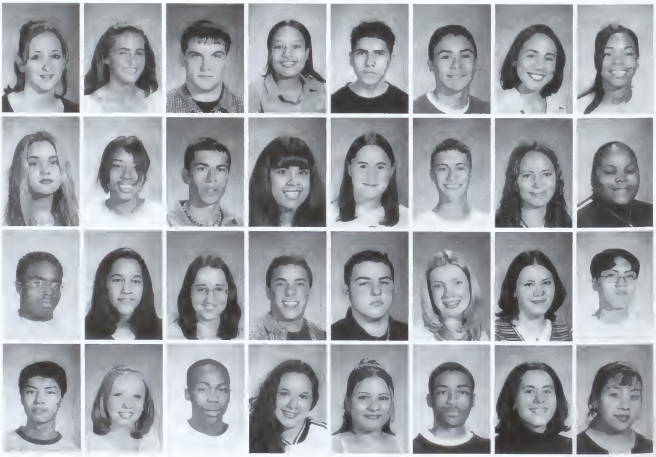
My favorite restaurant is Baker's Square because my friends and I went there after the football games.
Kim Shapley, '03

Kate Prentoski
Casady Pruitt
Joseph Quenett
Tiarra Ragulen
Glen Ramirez
Caro Ramos
Trevyana Ramos
Jennifer Reid

Lisette Renta
Jerrelynn Richards
Igor Risteveki
Deanna Rivera
Julia Roames
Mark Roberts
Melissa Robinson
Tymsha Robs

Breeon Rodgers
Vanessa Rodriguez
Tarra Rogers
David Roeda
Athanasios Rousis
Elisabeth Rund
Amanda Rutledge
Antonio Sablan

Edward Sablan
Ashley Sak
Larry Samuels
Nicole San Miguel
Jessica Sanchez
Wilton Sandifer
Kate Santeramo
Anayeli Santos





Tito Savage
Amanda Savka
Kristina Schoenecker
Theresa Schubert
Zachary Scott
Goran Seat
Dvann Segvich
Patrice Selmon

Kimberly Shapley
Marque Shelton
Daniel Sierra
Vangel Sikoski
Amanda Simpson
Michael Simpson
Sean Simpson
Justin Singer

Dale Skalba
Jennifer Slivka
Darius Smith
Jonathan Smith
Kasee Smith
Kaye Smith
Matthew Smith
Tiffany Smith

Sean Sobacki
Veronica Solvais
Laura Sopko
Katie Sorokas
Aleksandar Sotirovski
Jazmine Sowards
Dyral Spahalas
Nicole Sparger

Mark Sparlock
Nikola Srbinoski
Kenny Stanzione
Fontaine Stegall
Rebecca Stephen
Lora Sterley
Adam Stetson
Jacob Stewart

Anthony Stofko
Brittney Stoica
Matthew Stone
Anna Strange
Aimee Street
Eric Street
Tina Strebler
Lauren Strom

Casi Strong
Samantha Sullivan
Steven Summerhurst
Jeffrey Sturer
Jamie Sweeney
Kelly Swickard
Meagan Sylva
Shannon Szala

Kathleen Szot
Katie Tanis
Richard Tanis
Anthony Taylor
Ashly Taylor
Adam Tegtman
Christopher Terdoslavich
Paul Terrebonne

Jon Thien
Giovan Thomas
Sarah Thomas
Jenna Thros
Robert Todd
James Tolhuzen
Andre Toney
Lee Torrence

Vincent Torres
Jeffrey Trama
Christopher Trapane
Julie Trimble
Andrew Tsoupos
Shauna Tucker
Ryan Turner
Ivan Ursery II

Christine Uzeki
Kyle Valiadis
Arnie Valdez
Sara Valdez
Jeton Valentin
Justin Vanderkolk
Christopher Vargas
Laura Vaughn

John Vazanellis
Charles Wade II
Michael Wadley
Brandon Waldrop
Cheri Walls
Nichola Walter
Desiree Ward
Lindsay Warus

Shawn Washington
Ernest Washington
Melissa Watson
Waricha Watthanapha
Rodney Waxton
Joshua Werth
Jessica Wiemeke
Jason Wilburn

Adam Williams
Brittany Williams
Bryan Williams
Chaunese Williams
Dontreal Williams
Guinetta Williams
Tera Williams
Lindsey Wills

Davriana Wilson
Clint Wimmer
Elexus Wise
Amanda Wojtysiak
Kara Wood
Breonna Woods
Candice Woods
John Woods Jr.

Brad Woodward
Chardae Wright
Jesse York
Jennifer Zaiko
Louis Zamora
Brian Zelisko
Jessica Zimmerman
Ryan Zurek



What is your favorite restaurant and why?



My favorite restaurant is Maxim's because it is close to home and they have really good food.
Kathleen Hyzy, '03



I like Casa Gallardos because they have the best Mexican food.
Dave Rooda, '03



I like the Olive Garden because they have lots of delicious foods.
Adam Lewis, '03



I enjoy going out to eat at TGI Fridays due to the crazy antics of the people there.
Cliff Golon, '03



I like Joe's Crab Shack, because they have good food, an interesting decorating style, and you can have fun there.
Aubrey Brainard, '03



The place I like to go to eat is Chili's. They always serve plenty of food.
Sara Valdez, '03

Students Not Pictured

Maurice Aaron
James Davis
Tracy Dow
Bianca Dunkin
David Gibson
Terrence Haynes
Donte Hunter
Jenaka Hunter
Denise Johnson
Jermaine Johnson
Marcus Lattin
Armon Lynon
Nicholas Mileos
Kyle J. Miller
Sean Mitchell
Joce Mizimakoski
Noel R. Mijica
Daniel Padberg
Tyrone Page
Malia Pinnick
Robert Ralston
Daniel Suggs
Heather Summar
James Taylor
Adriana Vega

Class of 2004

Cynthia Lopez makes easy adjustment to high school



Unlike many freshmen at Merrillville High School, Cynthia Lopez says that she did not have a hard time finding her classes.

Many students say that they find themselves lost during their first days of school, but what makes this young lady unique is that she didn't. Her adjustment to high school life was surprisingly easy.

"Yes, it was a little hard to adjust to high school, because the school is bigger than my old school," the 14-year-old said.

"I knew it was going to be much bigger than middle school. I used to visit the high school for many different reasons," she said.

Lopez also said that, "It looks so easy on TV and on movies. Everything is already set up on TV, but there are some things that are alike."

"MHS is a lot like TV," Lopez said.

"The athletes are the most popular people and there are a lot of couples," she said.

Lopez said she hopes to go to college and receive a scholarship in one of the many sports she loves. Her favorite sports are basketball and soccer.

She did not participate in any extra-curricular activities because wants to "mold into the school."

—Dontreal Williams



Juan Acosta
Jeannette Acuntal
Gregory Adams
Jennifer Agoris
Courtney Albright
Randall Aleman
Ryan Alexander
Jorge Alvarez

Blair Amebe
Nadja Anderson
Dominic Angotti
Eleni Anton
Julian Arce
Antwan Archibald
Ryan Armstrong
Sohail Azeem

Michael Bakos
Christine Barnack
Jacob Barnett
Krysta Baron
Justin Barron
Jacqlene Basch
Ayesha Basemore
Brandon Battle

Kamika Battle
Bernard Beard
Lashawna Beard
Ashley Berger
Robyn Berry
Kenneth Beville
Nicole Bielak
Stephanie Bishop

Taura Black
Teilah Blakey
Tiara Blakey
Brittiney Blue
Deondra Blue
Laura Brake
Gregory Branda
Christina Braylock

Samantha Brazeau
Stacey Breen
Samantha Brememan
Stephanie Brosch
Darneshia Brown
Jessica Brown
Korman Brown
Terrell Brown

Malorie Brummet
Jennifer Brusven
Christopher Bryson
Phillip Budek
Jeremy Buhse
Cynthia Bulanda
Stephen Burke
Deandre Burks

Demetre Burnett
Jonathan Burum
Michael Busch
Amanda Butler
Christine Bynum
Monika Cadikovska
Vanessa Cadwell
Cody Camp

Anthony Carl
Jessica Carter
Keenan Carter
Michael Cartwright
Heather Casady
Elizabeth Caton
Jeffery Champion
Andrew Christopher

Joseph Clark
Matthew Colbert
Vincent Cole
Ronald Coleman
Tianna Coleman
Cecil Collins
Cedric Collins
Julie Collins

Brenton Connelly
Brenda Conner
Lavashia Conner
Ashley Conrov
Edward Contreras
Clifford Cook
Lavell Cook
Todd Cooper

Natasha Copic
Casache Cordell
Lesly Cortes
Kristina Covarrubias
Shaun Crittenden
Carlos Cuadra
Nicholas Cunningham
Joshua Curtis

Allison Czuhik
Mark Daily
Ashley Dallas
Bradley Daniel
Amanda Daniels
Larry Daniels Jr.
Michelle Danko
Anthony Davis

Christina Davis
Raco Davis
Jasmine Dayon
Lisa De La Rosa
Angela De Long
Kimberly Deming
Robert Dereamer
Shannon Deutsch

Adam Diamond
Megan Diaz
Britney Dieterle
Marko Djukic
Deshaunte Dominguez
Joshua Donahue
Elizabeth Donelson
Patricia Dooley

Julius Drake
Douglas Drees
Britne Druckemiller
Myeshia Dunlap
Keith Eaton
Trevor Eich
Joshua Elam
Nina Ellinger

Do movies and television give the right impression of high school?



"It shows high school pretty well. There are a lot of cliques and sometimes you feel like you don't fit in."
Shaun Crittenden, '04



"No. High school is not some big fashion show where people just come here to look cute and don't do the work."
Amanda Holly, '04



"No. The shows over-exaggerate high school. They make the school seem glamorous, full of rich people. They give the impression of the students running the school."
Zack Malis, '04



"Yes. They give you the impression that you can't be friends with people outside your clique of friends. Like the preps, jocks, etc."
Rebecca Longacre, '04



Shane Elliott
Raleigh Ensken
D'andre Evans
Joanne Flores
Joshua Flowers
Jason Ford
Ayriale Frost
Nicholas Garcia

Christopher Garza
Janet Gates
Marc Gates
Onette Gatlin
Steven Gawel
Joseph Gay
Jaclyn George
Gregory Gerald

Justin Gestring
Jon-Pierre Gibbons
Ashley Gidley
Richie Gill
Hannah Gilkoly
Sandra Gjurcinova
Joshua Gonzales
Kelly Gouwens

Daniel Graf
Lisa Graf
Darrel Graham
Benjamin Graves
Eliot Green
Jeffrey Gregory
Verona Gregory
Fabian Griffin

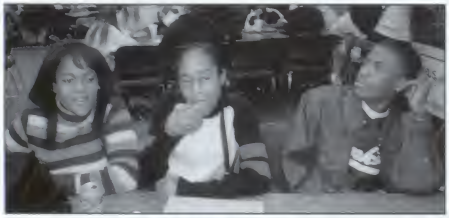
Daniel Griffith
Scott Griffith
Lorrie Grummer
Rodney Grove
Justin Grzybowski
Joseph Gutierrez
Matthew Gutierrez
Joseph Hall

Justin Hall
Matthew Hall
Adam Hamilton
Heidi Hammond
Chardicia Hardiman
Lawrence Hargrove
Lindsey Harrell
Brandon Harris

Kiyauna Harris
Trent Harris
Bridget Hauber
Tamara Haynon
Aaron Hebert
Jyantana Hemphill
Ricardo Hernandez
Vanessa Hernandez

Emily Herzog
Jenna Hill
Suretha Hill
Travis Hodges
Amanda Holly
Mallory Homola
Alisha Hooks
Pourne Hopson





Enjoying lunch time with friends are April Samuels, Megan Nichols and Marques Patrick, all '04.

Noon-time munching is just as important as hands-on classes. Christopher Munchenburg, '04, has no time to waste at lunch. With the few minutes given at lunch, every second counts!





Eddie Torres, '04, and Aaron Sokolowski, '04, team up to build a terrific bird house.



Steven Hord
Candice Howard
Matthew Huber
Charles Humphrey
Amanda Hunter
Michael Ibeloe
Raven Ivey
Dezmone Jackson

Melissa Jackon
Nikasha Jefferson
Kenesh Jennings
John Johnson
Pecora Johnson
Randall Johnson
Sharea Johnson
Tara Johnson

Tiffani Johnson
Zachary Johnson
Sharee Johnston
Marshay Jolly
Ashley Jones
Brandin Jones
Derrick Jones
Deshunda Jones

Lauren Jones
Marcus Jones
Bojan Jovanovic
John Kasper
Amber Kaste
Pauline Katsourros
Gagandeep Kaur
Nicholas Kazonis

Jonathon Kelley
Jason Kerbera
Marsheena Kendrick
Griffin Kennedy
Amber Kimbrew
Michael Kinsey
Timothy Koraly
Jacqueline Kish

Jamie Kistinger
Jeffrey Kluga
Aaron Kochek
Phillip Komsarcik
Eric Konefall
Jesse Koon
Megan Korn
Joshua Koselke

Patryk Kosow
Kelly Kourteas
Brandon Kosak
Shiri Kozma
Laura Lackey
Megan Lacny
Nicole Lagalo
Erika Larson

Arnetta Lawrence
Erica Leanos
Daniel Lee
Ponva Lee
Rebecca Lee
Ronte Lee
Thomas Lecht
Ian Lesko

Christine Lewis
Barshion Lewis
Dwana Lewis
Katie Lindsey
Ashley Lofton
Rebecca Lougeare
Samanatha Loo
Cynthia Lopez

Dimitrija Lozevski
Nicholas Luevano
Joseph Luttinen
Gracie Madison
Kelly Magee
Zack Malis
Hilary Marinich
Jacqueline Marlow

Joshua Marlow
Jamie Marsh
Lyniece Marshall
Jennifer Mason
Michael Massengill
Ja-Kay Matheny
Michelle Matheny
Crystal Matson

Courtney McCarty
Tiffany McCauley
Earl McClain
Jason McClinton
Ashley McCoy
Patrick McGee
Sharde' McKinney
Larry McLucas

Jayson Meja
Tracy Mericle
Rico Merced
Angela Merritt
Stephanie Mesa
Jeffery Messina
Dorrnie Medlovski
Courtney Miano

Jason Michelin
Kristina Milicevic
Ryan Miller
Laurie Mitchell
Monica Mitro
Katherine Montalbano
Christie Montemayor
Julie Montemayor

Hugo Moolenar
Justin Moore
Michael Moore
Teara Mooring
Jeannelle Moreno
Nikisha Morris
David Morrow
Justin Morton

Brandon Mosley
Craig Mullins
Chris Munchenburg
Jennifer Mustafa
Sean Mygrants
James Myslinec
Lisa Natywa
Kyle Naumowich



Amanda Daniels, '04, (left) waits in the snack line. Yummy!



Heather Casady, Cathryn Stupic and Jamie Kistinger, all '04, (above) take some time between classes to have a couple of laughs with some good friends.



While on the computer, Breon Harris '03 and Jesus Palomo '03, (above) surf the internet looking at some cool sites.

Daniel Strom, Shaun Crittenden, and Matthew Colbert , all '04, (below) sit down for lunch to take some time to kick it with their buddies and chow down on some snacks at lunch.





Chris Ortiz, '04, listens to one of his friends, David Morrow, '04, (left) tell a joke while sitting down for lunch. Although lunch is short, students always find time to spend a few minutes with friends.



Christopher Nawracaj
Brian Nay
Raymond Neely
Eric Nelson
Carol Newell
John Neylon
Megan Nichols
Jason Nyongani

Shawn O'Keefe
Zack O'Keefe
Ariel O Neil
Ashley Obregon
Cory Olivares
Christopher Ortiz
Neil Osborne
Ana Otano

Danielle Ovanek
William Overall
Nicholas Pajon
Louis Panayotas
Melissa Panaguas
Curtis Parker
Rebecca Parrish
Kristine Paskash

Kyle Patel
Marques Patrick
Lex Paz
Tabitha Pepper
Tyonka Perkins
Crystina Perryman
Emily Peters
Jessica Peterson

Has high school been as fun as you thought it would be?



"No. this school does not keep your interest for long."

Jeremy Stemple, '04



"Yes. I love the thought of meeting new people and being in a new environment. It's like an adventure around every corner."

Monica Mitro, '04



"Yea. It's way better than middle school! You have a variety of people to hang out with."

Lindsey Williams, '04



"Yea. You get to meet some unique and diverse people."

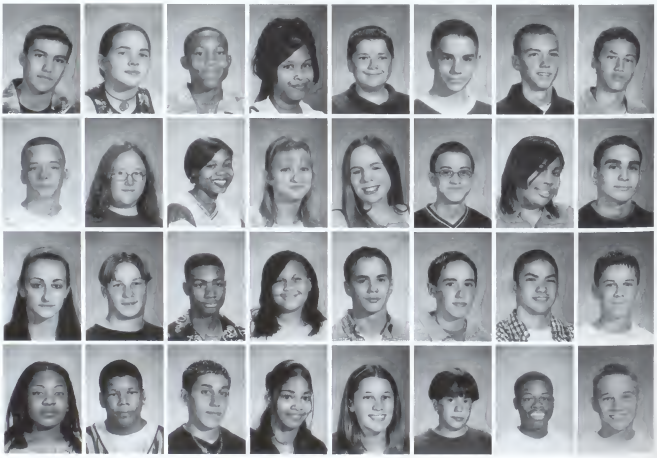
Sara Street, '04

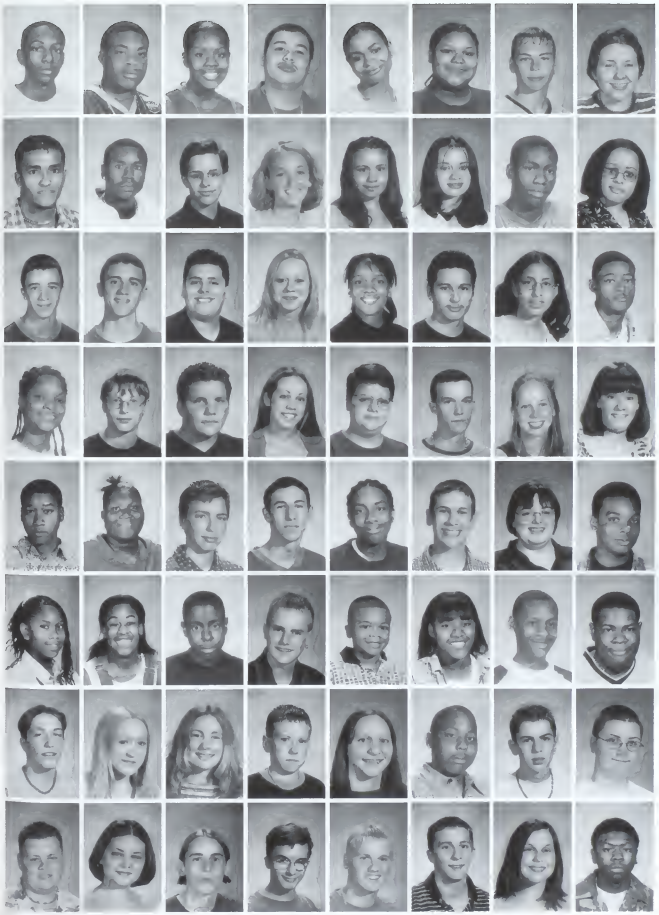
Thomas Peterson
Nicolle Petit
Nolan Petties
Jamiah Peynesta
Jace Pitzler
Joseph Plukas
Jason Plys
Jonathon Polak

Adam Poling
Ashley Poling
Katrina Portis
Kathryn Potts
Tiffany Potts
Jeremy Powell
Taleia Powell
David Prentoski

Diana Prentoski
Justin Previs
Trimell Price
Alexandria Pride
Adam Pumnea
Kevin Quirk
Pedro Rangel
Danny Rathburn

Cyleste' Reed
Vince Reives
Joel Remaley
Analicia Ricard
Lindsay Richards
Colin Roberts
Dorian Roberts
Brandon Robertson





Lionel Robinson
Nathan Robinson
Raikeesha Robinson
Jeremiah Rodriguez
Ainelle Rogers
Sharise Rogers
Vincent Rogers
Teralyn Rogina

Derek Roldan
Christopher Ross
Gregory Ross
Samantha Rothgeb
Amanda Ruiz
Grace Rund
Crown Russell
Jeri Russell

Kevin Saberniak
Scott Saberniak
Jeremy Salas
Nicole Salas
April Samuels
Lionel Sanchez
Rosalinda Sanchez
Troy Sandifer

Virtina Savage
Jonathan Savin
Barry Sayger
Tara Schaab
Bryan Schooler
Michael Schreiber
Jessica Schwent
Breanne Scott

Joseph Scott
Nikisha Scott
Eric Severson
Brandon Sharp
Armon Shelby
Scott Shelhart
Kelly Simanson
Anthony Sims

Deshona Slater
Aeriol Smith
David Smith
Jason Smith
Jessie Smith
Kendra Smith
Skyler Smith
John Snelling

Timothy Snelson
Allison Snyder
Megan Sobierajski
Aaron Sokolowski
Lindsey Solomon
Derron Spencer
Nathaniel Sprague
Nick St. Clair

Justin Stanley
Tara Stanley
Jonathan Starkey
Jeremy Stemple
Kyle Stewart
Christopher Stickels
Nicole Stompor
Anthony Stout

Nathan Street
Sara Street
Lamar Strickland
Daniel Strom
Cathryn Stupa
Jeffrey Sturm
Jodi Suggs
Christel Sumichrast

Elise Szany
Joseph Szczerba
Natalia Taleff
Tanya Tansil
Raymond Taylor
James Teamer
Rebecca Ternes
Alexander Thien

Kevin Thomason
Christopher Tokarski
Edward Torres
Robert Toth
Dragan Trajkovski
Anthony Tradine
Jh'rome Tuggle
Randall Turner

Taura Turner
William Urban
David Uremovich
Steven Vanek
Jolynn Vargas
Thomas Vechey
Edward Vega Jr.
Melissa Velazco

Stephen Veldman
Kimberly Verduzco
Raymone Vickerstaff
Stephanie Villareal
Luis Villasenor
Antonette Vinson
Antonio Vinson
Nick Vorgias III

Ryan Vurva
Anthony Wachholz
Lucius Wade
Melissa Wadley
Robert Wahlman
Kenneth Walker
Marissa Walls
Andre Ware

Jon Wargo
Jonathan Waras
Jazmelle Washington
Joshua Watkins
Megan Watson
Natalie Weall
Darrin Weaver
Amy Wedding

Patrick Westbury
Meghan Westphal
Martell White
Colleen Whittet
Aaron Williams
Brian Williams
Christopher Williams
Jerry Williams





Khalisa Williams
Lindsey Williams
Breznee Wilson
Kathleen Wilson
Brittany Wiltgen
Keegan Wise
Ashley Witter
Courtney Woodfaulk

Bernard Worsham
David Wright
Saundra Wright
Daniel Wydro
Jerred Yagelski
Jeremy Yarrington
Antonios Yiatras
Joshua Yoldash

Antoine Young
Samantha Yurechko
Ziyan Zakula
Adam Zalewski
Shiheng Zheng
Jeffrey Zweig II

Students Not Pictured

Paul Bothwell
Oscar Bradley
Gregory Brumfield
Shawn Clark
Larry Daniel
Jeremy DeLaCruz
Jason Gary
Cecilia Guzman
Krystal Harter
Edward Howe
Paul Littleton
Michelle Morris
Veronica Page
Carmen Pickett
Keith Ralson
Michelle Rodriguez
Shawn Sumrrar
Richard Villareal



Airielle Rogers, '04, finds some time to relax with her best friend Jody Suggs, '04 while at lunch.

Samantha Breneman, '04, and Kristina Couarrubias, '04, quietly play a game of checkers during lunch period in the Media Center.





Gregory Jerrel, '04, flashes a smile while he stands in line waiting for his lunch.



A student's mind is filled with the knowledge that she receives from class. When it is time to fill her stomach, Courtney Woodfaulk, '04, (left) knows where to go!

Faculty

Jennifer Albano
Beverly Ambroziak
Janet Anderson
William Angelidis
Joe Atria
Thomas Bainbridge

Michelle Barker
Amber Baron
Don Baron
Betty Barsley-Marra
Amy Beckham
Robert Bedwell

Michael Berta
Mary Ann Bertram
Wade Boise
John Bradford
Alan Branda
Joy Brown

Monica Burgos
Viveca Carter
Ryan Cartwright
Carletta Cheek
Linda Christoff
Jeff Clinkenbeard

Kimberly Corman
James Daily
Amy Davis
David DeMuth
Barb Dlouhy
Nancy Draper

Myles Dunscombe
Lori Dust
James East
Richard Ebler
Dee Edgcomb
Roger Emig

Evelyn Ennsmann
Sharon Estes
Tom Feeney
Chris Fields
Diane Firme
Edie Fisher

Sheldon Floyd
Timothy Flynn
Drew Furuness
Rick Garner
Beth Gillespie
Gale Guyer



Faculty



Judy Hain
Julie Haneman
Courtney Hardin
Michael Hoffman
Randall Horka
Sean Hudson



Rick Hurey
Bill Idzior
Tim James
John Jennings
Curtis Johnston
James Johnston

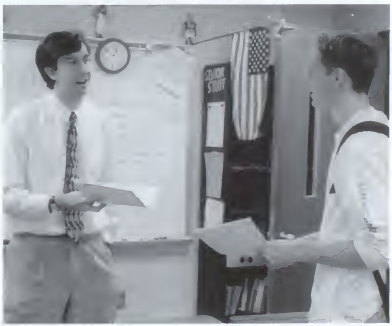


Jerrold Kasarda
Shelley Kavois
Barbara Koby
Rosellen Kozel
Michael Krutz
Maggie Lain



John Lambersie
Judy LeDuc
May Lee
Connie Lewis
Mark Lucas
Dr. Anthony Lux





Mr. John Lambersie lends a helping hand to Nate Reynolds with his term paper during 5th period. Mr. Lambersie makes sure Nate does not plagerize on his term paper.

With a full class in front of her, Mrs.Sharon Estes explains the importance of American Literature during class. Mrs. Estes not only teaches American Literature, but also Etymology and Survey of Composition and Literature.

Faculty

Bob Mackovyak
Diane Mandon
Marcey Mathis
Mary McVade
Wilber Milhouse
Carrie Miller

Janice Minor
Debbie Monix
Sally Morgan
Patrick Mulloy
Bob Myers
Jennifer Neidy

Gail Nicolini
Andy Niksich
Eric Olton
Debbie Onika-Brazys
Rick Parker
Brian Past

Maryetta Petras
Deanne Pierce
Greg Pierson
Ryan Pitcock
Josefina Poropat
Joe Poteet

Dolores Poxon
Steven Prather
Terry Pratt
Ronald Price
Tania Price
Teresa Procter

Randy Qualitza
Janis Qualizza
Geraldine Rainey
Shirley Renner
Patricia Robison
Eric Rodbro

Artie Rogers
Mark Rosenbaum
Bonnie Sanders
Lisa Schilling
Pam Schilling
Violet Schmuck

Elissa Schubert
Beverley Seaver
Mary Shoshoo
Irene Spiro
Tom Spitzer
Debra Staffeld



Faculty



Craig Stafford
Scott Staley
Margaret Stallings
Jean Stanford
Donna Stath
Evelyn Steiner

Michelle Sulich
Melissa Szczerba
Mariam Taha
Dave Teeter
Richard Terpstra
James Vermillion

Carol Von Behren
Matt Walker
Zac Wells
Madeline Wilson
Michelle Wilson
Jeff Yelton

James Young
Dave Zimmerman

Not Pictured:
Robert Bergeson
Maria Lopez
Sally Williamson



Mr. Jim Vermillion waits patiently for a response from his physics' students during class. Mr.Vermillion plagues his Physics' class with perplexing questions everyday.



During class Senora Josefina Poropat explains verb conjugation to her 3rd year Spanish students. Senora Poropat is dedicated to her students and offers her assistance whenever it is needed

Staff



Guidance Secretaries
Elaine Hydinger, Laura Fries, Cheryl Albers, Sharon Jones



Security Force
Row 1: Larry Juzwicki, Ron Thomas, Maria Montemayer, Ryan Miller, Kevin Jolas
Not Pictured : Daryl Bowie



Main Office Secretaries
Row 1: Carol Hogan, Linda Hall, Carol Wood
Row 2: Susan Gaines, Melanie Scott





Student Services Secretaries
Judy Vassallo, Shirley Ortegon

Athletic Secretaries
Debbie Willison, Nicki Jusko

Staff



Day Maintenance Crew
Don Hickman, Angie Knezevic, Joe Hein Sr.



Night Maintenance Crew
Row 1: Mary Rhone, Joy Varela, Helen Moravskij, Nisa Milosavljevich, Donna Rodriguez
Row 2: Mark Robinson, Charlie Stanford, Paul Moravskij, Bill Ashworth
Row 3: Scott Semper, Zoran Stefanovic



Media Center Staff
Joe Poteet, Donna Phelps, Mary Scheffer, William Angelidis



Media Services
Vicky J. Salyers, Pam Schilling, Bonnie Niksch



Danessa De La Cruz, '02, helps Kasey Samson, '01, with her homework assignment. Many students help each other reach academic success.



Diverse Academics



Offering a diverse course list is one of the hallmarks of this high school. From auto shop to advanced placement college courses, the curriculum offers something for everyone.

Students can organize their classes to prepare them for college or to move into the working world after graduation.

Each department has its special classes that draw students. Child Development is a relatively new offering that gives students hands-on experience in child care.

Creative Writing, an old favorite, gives students a chance to flex creative muscles.

The Graphic Arts Department continues to offer students real life experience in printing and design.

Too numerous to mention, the classes are all geared toward preparing students for their next step.

—MaryAnn Fotis

Kids on the Block

Help build character

For the third year, the Kids on the Block have been teaching elementary school students about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and gangs. They've been reinforcing that it's all right to be different and independent.

Twelve puppeteers, from freshmen to seniors, make up Kids on the Block. The puppets, which cost anywhere between $700 and $900 each, are all handcrafted individually from beginning to end. Real clothing and attire adorn their bodies. Even though it's been shown that kids know the puppets aren't real, they enjoy the show and get the message.

"Our primary goal is to get an anti-drug, alcohol and tobacco message out to the primary grades, to give programs that they're going to be receptive to," said sponsor Mrs. Beverley Seaver.

"I think they get some reinforcement from the programs that they are already learning in school. They are given a real positive message in a very interesting format. It establishes a link between them and the older kids. It gives them the feeling that they can go to older kids, maybe if they're uncomfortable talking to an adult about something, and talk to them about some of their concerns," Seaver said.

Seaver thought that major accomplishments this year were getting more kids involved and covering the schools more successfully with their wide range of programs.

Seaver's favorite moment this year was when the new puppeteers saw the excitement on the kids' faces — the multitude of grins from ear to ear.

"That energized the puppeteers and got them really excited," Seaver said.

— Cole Perkins





The puppet John Sanchez is just one of the many puppets MHS students use to teach students at Merrillville's elementary schools about making decisions.

The puppeteers get ready for the big song that they do before each performance. The song features all of the puppets and introduces the children to the faces that they will become familiar with during the show.





The puppeteers listen carefully as Jeff Roth and Laurie Farver, both '01, deliver their lines in a short practice before a show. Groups often practice their skits in front of everyone so that they could gain input from the rest of the puppeteers. Teamwork, dedication and cooperation are a big part of what the Kids on the Block represent.



Christopher Stojanovski, a second grader at John Wood Elementary School, interacts with the puppet Paul Worthington. By the end of the show, the students feel like they have grown closer to their puppet friends.



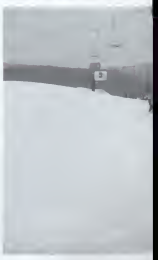
It's time for the children to say goodbye to their new friends, but they can't leave before they shake the puppets' hands. The children smile and laugh as they leave, knowing that they have learned valuable lessons.



Kasey Samson, '01, and Jesse Koon, '04, practice a skit with their puppets before the start of a show at John Wood Elementary School. Mrs. Beverley Seaver (foreground) watches closely and offers encouraging words of advice. The Kids on the Block are dedicated to teaching students about making good choices.

Showing a special ability





The annual Special Olympics gives the students in the Special Education Department a chance to show off their abilities. Special Olympics believes that competition among those of equal abilities is the best way to test athletes' skills, measure their progress and inspire them to grow.

Special Olympics offers competition in volleyball, women's gymnastics, alpine skiing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, track and field and bowling.

This year Merrillville had a big turnout for the Special Olympics. Twenty-five students participated in the Special Olympics and came home with 10 medals from the competition.

Teachers Mrs. Melissa Szczerba and Mrs. Barb Dlouhy provided guidance for the students who competed.

"The Special Olympics had a great turn out," Mrs. Szczerba noted. "Countless volunteers from different clubs and organizations affiliated with the school assisted in the competitions and practices. Everyone has come out a winner."

The parents were also involved in the Special Olympics. The parents provided a carpool for the students, transporting them back and forth to practice.

After competing at MHS, the students "have the privelege of traveling to state competitions all around the state: volleyball at Ball State University, skiing at French Lick, bowling in Indianapolis, then the final state games at Terre Haute at Indiana State University," Mrs. Szczerba said. "The trips may entail weekend or over-night outings that add to the fun and learning experiences.

"We like to encourage independence when the students make it to state," Mrs. Szczerba said. She said students were able to stay overnight and visit many new places.

— Kortina Gates



Ed McCullom and Mike Janeczko show off their medals. McCullom and Janeczko participated in skiing at Special Olympics.



Derrick Luker and Katie Muldenhaur's smiles warm a cold afternoon.



Tim Wirtz was one of the participatants on the local Special Olympics bowling team.



Skiing is one of the events during the Indiana State Winter Olympics. MHS student Greg Reliner prepares to slide down the slope.



Tommy Phiter takes a break from the pins. Tommy participated on the local Special Olympic bowling team.

Did someone ask

about diversity?





What better place to learn about diversity than Ethnic Studies with Mrs. Viveca Carter?

Many students have a major misconception about the class, Mrs. Carter said. Many students think the class only studies Black literature. It is quite the contrary, though. Ethnic Studies not only examines Black literature, but Asian and Hispanic literature and much more.

Ethnic Studies is an elective course that teaches lessons about life and life's obstacles.

Mrs. Carter has been teaching the class for four years. One of her main goals is to make her students appreciate their culture and build curiosity about other cultures as well.

"My favorite thing about the course is how we are able to have open discussions about so many different things, and how we become more aware of how other people live. It's just a fun class," Irene Menchaca, '01, said.

Many students say that Mrs. Carter is the best teacher they have ever had.

"I treat all of my students with tremendous respect. I never talk down to them or make assumptions about them. I treat them as the young adults they are," Mrs. Carter said.

— Dena Panayi



The W.I.T.T. Club and two Ethnic Studies classes joined in the celebration of Kwanzaa. The celebration of Kwanzaa is similar to the celebration of Hanukkah. Kristie Heflin, Kristie McMillan, Irene Menchaca, Vince Manara, and Allison Derico, all '01, had important jobs to do during the celebration.





Mrs. Viveca Carter takes time to put grades into her computer for her Ethnic Studies classes. Mrs. Carter, the chairman of the English Department, has taught Ethnic Studies for four years.

Samaria Thompson, Marina Trajkovski and Adara Foree, all '01, were just a few of the students who brought different types of ethnic dishes to the Kwanzaa celebration. The celebration took place in Mrs. Carter's classroom the day before Christmas break began.

Hands-On Classes

The Family and Consumer Science Department has come a long way at MHS. Students find classes such as Child Development and Foods both entertaining and educational.

Mrs. Maggie Stallings believes the biggest advantage for students in taking these classes is to gain knowledge in order to lead and live productive lives. Most classes in this department are designed to help students with their families, careers and communities.

A fun class this year for Mrs. Stallings to teach is Prostart because it is a new avenue.

"It gives students opportunities for their future career development in hospitality," Mrs. Stallings said.

Students are also getting a kick out of Child Development this year. Kelly Kourtesis, '04, and Jarrell Hamilton, '03 wanted to have a good experience by getting the feel of wearing the empathy belly.

After wearing the empathy belly, Kourtesis said she would wait a while before getting pregnant.

"I wanted to get a full experience of pregnancy, and I am definitely waiting until a few years after I get married," Kourtesis said.

Hamilton said she wants to wait until she's 23 to have a baby.

"I wanted to experience being pregnant for a day, and I didn't like it at all," Hamilton said.

Mrs. Betty Barsley-Mara teaches Child Development and said she enjoys "knowing that it's a practical course that kids will use in their lives."

Mrs. Barsley-Mara also said she wants to teach kids to prevent pregnancy until they are ready to be parents. Some significant things in this course are wearing the empathy belly, carrying flour babies as a parent-simulation activity, and planning and running a preschool with children from the community.

—Irene Kourtesis



Kelly Kourtesis, '04, and Jarrell Hamilton, '03, are happy to pose with their empathy bellies. They loved being a part of all the fun in their Child Development Class.

What is your favorite academic class?



My favorite class is math because it is easy for me and I get good grades."
John Vazanellis, '03



"My favorite class is Chemistry because it is easy and I like my teacher, Mr. Fields."
Nick Mileos, '03



Cooking up some yummy delights, Sara Street and Christina Braylock, both '04, build up an appetite. Working as partners makes their cooking experience enjoyable.



The wheels don't go round until Nikola Drljaka, '01, fixes them. Hands-on classes give students hands-on experience.

Traveling Abroad

St. Brieuc, Madrid, Bönu

Think your summer was exciting? Wait until you hear what Michael Evans, Christy Cvetan and John Padberg, all '01, did.

Evans and Cvetan took part in the Indiana University Honors Program that allows students to visit a foreign country during the summer. The idea is to immerse the student in the culture so that he or she learns the language. Evans went to France while Cvetan went to Spain for seven weeks. Padberg participated in German American Partnership Program and stayed in Germany for three weeks. On their trips they all stayed with a host family.

Evans said his favorite place was Normandy because "I got to see actual footage of the battles and then got to stand where the battles took place." Cvetan said her favorite place was "El Reina Sophia Museum in Madrid because I got to see the famous art of Picasso and Dali." Padberg said he liked the cathedral in Köln, where he had "a great view of the city."

The best part of the trip for Evans were parties and the clubs. "I liked being able to come home at my own leisure," he said.

Cvetan said the best part of her trip was "meeting so many new people and going to places I had never been."

Padberg said he enjoyed being able to "meet new people and make friends in another country and seeing a lot of old cities."

The main difference that Evans noticed in France was "that all the cars were small and stick shift."

Cvetan noticed that the general attitude and willingness of the people. "I didn't meet one rude person in Spain," she said.

"Mostly, teenagers have more freedom and are trusted more, plus you drive at the age of 18 and you walk most of the time," said Padberg.

Evans, Cvetan and Padberg said they missed their family and friends the most. Would they recommend this experience to anyone else? "Yes," they all answered. Padberg said that the only regret he has was "not staying longer."

—Jessica Moreno







One of the many gardens in Spain, La Alhambra in Granada is a breathtaking site. The beautiful architecture and spectacular views draw many visitors to Spain.

Travels Abroad



Christy Cvetan spent her summer in Spain.



John Padberg went to Germany with GAPP.



Michael Evans journeyed to France.



Germany is known for its beautiful cathedrals. One of the tallest cathedrals in Germany is in Köln. Inside, a spiral staircase leads to the top of the cathedral, where visitors can see almost the whole city.



The Eiffel Tower stands tall in Paris, France. It is located near the Seine River, which divides the city. Toward nightfall, the lights on the tower start to show.

Learning
To Use Technology

We use them to get mail and surf the web. We use them for fun, not schoolwork, right? Well, that's changing with the introduction of many new computer classes into the schedule of classes.

Internet and keyboarding are only two examples of the long list of classes being offered to the students.

So why are all of these new classes being offered? Most of the students at MHS know their way around a computer.

"These classes are aimed at the kids who want to have a career in computers later. I believe the classes help them learn more for the future," said Mr. Andy Niksich.

Surfing the web for information has become one of the main ways to obtain information. Since many sources now come from the Internet, teachers have to include information on how to attribute sources from the Internet for students doing term papers.

"I'm hoping this class will prepare me for the careers that are going to be available to me when I get out of college," Mike Muvceski, '01, said.

We're now in a world of technology where everyone wants to sink their teeth into a part of it. The classes that are offered here and the availability of the Internet in the school Media Center are just a small part into what's to come.

—Megan Brown







Samarla Thompson, '01, tries to decide what she'll do today in her computer class. Computer classes are all about learning something new about technology.

Why did you take a computer class?



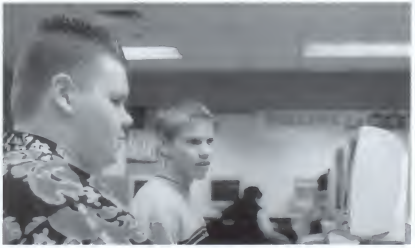
"I hope to one day be a Computer Programmer and I'm hoping this class will help me prepare for that."
Steven Campbell, '03



"I really like computers and I hope to one day be able to create my own web page. Plus I want to be like Bill Gates."
Josh Crosby, '01



Allison Czubik and Laurie Mitchell, both '04, use computers during their Honors Composition and Literature class to write essays. In the computer labs students can also access the Internet for research papers.



Justin Stanley and Andy Christopher, both '04, prepare a short story review using the PowerPoint software available to students. Learning to use all the technology available on campus is one of the corporation's goals for the students.

Teaching literature and history

In a new way

This year Merrillville had something different to offer the students: a new way of teaching U.S. History and American Literature.

Team taught by Mrs. Amber Baron from the social studies department and Mrs. Lisa Schilling from the English department, American Studies combined the two classes. Students met during the fourth hour and forfeited their study period to participate in the class.

Administrators and teachers combined the classes in order to increase interest and understanding of literature and history through intense literature and historical time period analysis.

This is a fast paced, challenging class where organization and effort are strongly needed, both teachers agreed.

Throughout the year students were involved in several projects. They created their own inventions and developed presentations about the culture of the 1920s and 1950s.

"This class helps students," commented Mrs. Baron. "If a student is not strong in history, he or she can make up by getting a high grade in English."







Andrew Holmes, David Strom, Keith Gough, and Tim Gust, all '02, present a comedy sketch about lifestyles of the 1950s. The students delivered a cultural presentation of the 1950s as one of many activities in American Studies.

What did you think about the course?



"I liked the information that we learned. If I didn't understand the background of a novel we read in American Literature, then when we studied U.S. history I comprehended why people were acting a certain way."
Veroniqua Phelps, '02



"I thought the class was very interesting."
Danielle Ragon, '02



Mrs. Lisa Schilling and Mrs. Amber Baron look over a student's research project. The teachers worked as a team to give the students a better learning experience.



Katie Floyd and Olivia Obregon, both '02, perform a skit about the evil ways of game shows. Projects were a way to increase the students' understanding of history and literature.



Jamia Hope, '02, looks to shoot the ball past her Highland opponent.

Diverse Sports



Baseball, basketball, football, soccer…any sport you name, there are always challenges.

Only the ones that have experienced defeat know what it takes to come back and succeed.

Highs and lows were experienced by all MHS teams this year. Traditions ended and history was made.

Teams finished the season strong. Some teams began new post-season streaks. Others watched their streaks come to an end.

Milestones were achieved by some, others came just short.

This year brought talented new faces and tearful goodbyes to the ones who are proud to say, "We are Pirates."

— MaryAnn Fotis, Ricky Holtz and Ken Badylak

Defensive plays are season's highlights

Pirates go through injuries, bad breaks

The Pirate Football Team this year did not really struggle, but had to cope with some misfortunes.

The Pirates were only fully healthy for the first and last games of the season.

"You have seasons where things just don't go your way," Head Coach Jeff Yelton said

Coach Yelton has been coaching football for almost 20 years and he knows better than anyone how football can be a game of just plain luck.

"There was a great group of kids on this team and I am proud of their effort. They came to play every night," Coach Yelton said.

The Pirates had some big wins in the season, including a 10-6 victory over Lake Central, one of the best teams in the area.

The outlook of the season became more optimistic when Antonio Horton, '01 became eligible. Horton may be the fastest person in the Duneland Conference. David Beale, '01, anchored the Pirates' offensive line. The line helped open holes for Horton to run through.

The bright spot for the Pirates was the excellent play of the defense and the play of the seniors. The "D" was one of the best in the conference in total yards allowed.

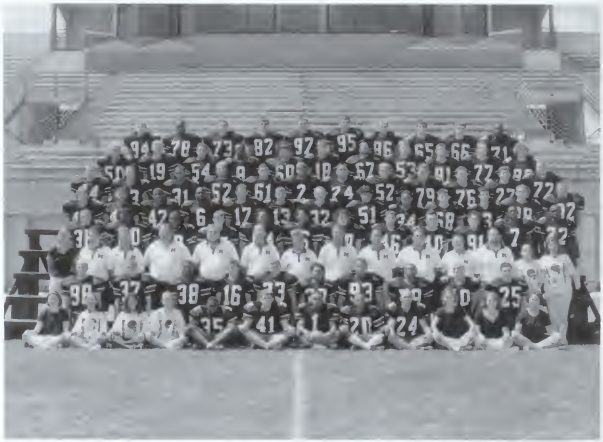
Bruce Blue, '01, lead the defensive line. Both Lonnie Randolph and James Borom,'01, gave wide receivers and quarterbacks headaches.

Even with a limited lineup the offense still managed to control the ball and put points on the board.

— Ray Dix

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
10	Lake Central	6
14	Mishawaka	28
21	Crown Point	10
7	Portage	16
12	Michigan City	14
24	LaPorte	6
6	Valparaiso	36
12	Hobart	14
7	Chesterton	26
	Sectionals	
41	Lew Wallace	0
3	Valparaiso	7



First Row: Jenny Slivka, Yvonne Martinez, Maya, Rothstein, Cori Wimmer, Slyvester Brooks, Mike Bunnell, Antonio Horton, James Borom, Brad Woodward, Dawn Molchan, Jenny Okichich, Sarah Thomas; Second Row: Patrick Buck, Rich Stoffel, Chris Harris, Eric Morris, Jason Nolan, Terry Judkins, Jason Gaffney, Sean Simpson, Jason Giordano, Mike Berta; Third Row: Danielle Molchan, Sean Hudson, Larry Zembala, Joe Atria, Bill Roberts, Wade Boise, Jeff Yelton, Zack Wells, Ryan Pifcock, Art Rogers, Denny Hamilton, Eric Rodbro, Janice Smith, Melissa Klsh; Fourth Row: Joe Frasca, Zerrubbabel Lewis, Eugene Allen, Clint Wimmer, Leon Brown, Kennedy Perkins, Noyan Olcum, Paul Kurczynski, Nick Dallas, Chris Garza, Lonnie Randolph, Rameses Montgomery; Fifth Row: Nick Roberts, Nick Graves, Brandon Mosley, Chad Synder, Brian Yack, Steve Gill, Ryan Nava, Billy Jones, Alan Azcona, Adam Tegtman, Chris Gough, Roy Lewis; Sixth Row: Jarret Darling, Rob Huish, Jason Williams, Franklin Jackson, Jeff Abrego, Mike Leiss, Dave Beale, Tony Degard, Gary Marek, Chris Sullivan, Kevin Dwyer, Riley Larimore; Seventh Row: Mike Mays, Randy Brodner, Dave Rooda, Baffour Asabe, Chris Adams, Nick Fisher, Idris Abdul-Hafiz, Adam Wilson, Jeff Meding, Jake Appleton, Mike Francis; Back Row: Nick Michelin, Temadayo Macarthy, Steve Miljus, Jonathon Budz, Bill Downs, Tom Sovich, Jeremy Keene, Josh Berk, Aaron Powell, Bruce Blue.

Football



Bruce Blue, '01, and Steve Gill, '02, exemplify the strength of the Pirate defense. The Pirates had one of the top defensive squads in the area.

Nick Roberts, '02, prepares to contribute as he did all season. Roberts was an accurate kicker during the 2000 season.







Mike Mays, '01, and Dave Beale, '01, played hard on the offensive line all year. The seniors were a big part of MHS's ground attack.

Lonnie Randolph, '01, concentrates on catching a punt from the opposing team. Randolph was the leading return man.



Brian Yack, '02, runs the Pirate offense against Crown Point. Yack was a steady contributor all season.

Start that sectional streak again

Boys enjoy success in tennis season

Merrillville's boys' Tennis Team enjoyed extraordinary success this year. The team has put in much effort for the season, and is still looking forward to more challenges for next year.

Coach Alan Branda believes the team did very well because of a winning record this year. The biggest challenge for Coach Branda is to change the habits of his players. He also believes it is very enjoyable to see the players mature and rise to challenges.

According to Coach Branda, the most improved players on his team were Randy Johnson, '04, Adam Hamilton, '04, and Cole Perkins, '03. Erik Price, 01, showed good leadership.

"The biggest advantage of being on the team is playing a sport that is challenging and fun," said Price.

He had two goals, to beat Andrean and win the sectional. Price accomplished both of his goals. The worst part of Price's year was playing poorly at regionals.

"The greatest advantage is being part, and belonging to the MHS Tennis Team, and representing the school by winning," David Uremovich, '04, said.

Uremovich's goal this year was to play varsity and win sectionals, and he successfully made both of these goals. Along with his major accomplishment, his biggest disappointment was losing at regionals and not advancing.

— Irene Kourtesis

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
1	Highland	4
2	Heritage Christian	3
4	Maconaquah	1
3	Noblesville	2
1	Valparaiso	4
5	Crown Point	0
2	LaPorte	3
5	Portage	0
5	Michigan City	0
2	Andrean	3
4	Chesterton	1
	Invitational	
	Andrean	45
	Canterbury	20
	Highland	35
	Lake Central	35
	N. Montgomery	2
	Portage	16
	S.B. Adams	17
	Merrillville	28
2	Lake Central	3
5	Hobart	0
5	Lowell	0
0	Munster	5
	Sectionals	
5	Hobart	0
3	Andrean	2
	Regionals	
2	LaPorte	3



First row: Julie Lesniak, Coach Al Branda, Ryan Hill, Erik Price, Coach Dave Zimmerman, Jonathan Jasinski, Brandon McVade, Coach Doc Levison, Kathleen Szot; Second Row: Tiffany Sajdera, David Uremovich, Cole Perkins, Dathan Echols, Adam Hamilton, Joshua Donahue, Jessica Zimmerman, Casady Pruitt; Back Row: Jared Perkins, Christopher Nahlik, Anthony Stofko, Ricky Holtz, Drake Branda, Randall Johnson, Joshua Diehl, Gregory Branda, DJ Marler.

Boys' Tennis



The team rejoices with their fans over their victory in the sectional.

Anticipating the serve, Greg Branda, '04, waits patiently to hit the ball coming his way.







Making his swift moves with the racket, Eric Price, '01, carefully strikes the ball over the net. Eric puts much pride and devotion into his favorite sport.

Swiftly returning a serve to the opponent, Brandon McVade, '02, is showing his great effort for the team.



Ready to hit the ball, David Uremovich, '04, waits in hope of getting it over the net.

Team shatters school records

Striving to be known as the area's best

Goals achieved, records shattered.

No boundary big or small could stop these boys. This is the 2000 boys' varsity Soccer Team, of course.

Beating most of their opponents in double digits, these boys could not be stopped on the field by any team. Starting the year off strong, the boys defeated their opponents mercilessly.

Striving to be known as the best around, the boys broke five school records, including most wins, most goals scored and least goals scored against the team. They captured the sectional and regional championship..

The team had a close relationship with Coach Brian Past, who has been coaching the boys' Soccer Team for the past four years.

"This year's Merrillville team is like no other team before. It is a team with the most talent and experience," Tony Semovski, '01, said.

"No other team in the area has the need and determination to win every game, giving an all out effort in victory or defeat. Our team will not go down without putting up a fight," said Andy Pawlowski, '01.

Having 15 victories, sharing first place in the DAC and capturing the sectional and regional titles meant that the team worked their hardest.

Nick Gonzalez, '01, said he will miss all of his fellow teammates and 'the four backseat boys on every away game."

With 11 seniors graduating, a new batch of athletes eagerly await their turn to show Merrillville how they will strive for that same goal.

—Megan Brown

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
5	West Lafayette	0
6	Laporte	0
0	Wheeler	1
2	Chesterton	3
7	Danville	0
12	Northview	1
3	Valparaiso	2
7	Boone Groove	1
7	Michigan City	0
2	Lake Central	1
13	Crown Point	0
7	Harrison	2
2	Hobart	3
1	Andrean	2
4	Portage	1
1	Munster	3
	Sectionals	
3	Griffith	1
3	Lake Central	0
2	Highland	1
	Regionals	
2	Munster	1
	Semi-state	
2	Mish. Marion	3



First Row: Vangel Nacovski, Matt Alola, Luke Nienhaus, Peter Brasovan, Kyle Vrotny, Eric Nolan, Nick Gonzalez; Second Row: Jessica Gonzalez, Aaron Byczko , Martin Cole, Brandon Beller, Darnell Cole, Andy Pawlowski, John Padberg, Lauren Homola, Back Row: April Ramirez, Pete Nacovski, Igor Ristevski, Jared Byczko, Mark Megyesi, Tony Semovski, Ben Daniel, Terrie Maddox, Coach Brian Past, Christi Kamanaroff.

Boys' Soccer



Ben Daniel, '01, gets ready to send the ball flying for a point for his team.

Terri Maddox, '01, flies over the opposing team's goalie to get to the ball. This just shows nothing can hold these boys back.







John Padberg,'01, number 15, takes off at a run, as he runs to beat the opposing team to the ball.

Martin Cole, '03, proves he's capable of anything as he swings in to steal the ball.



Tony Semovski and Brandon Beller, both '01, show teamwork after assisting each other in a goal.

Meeting the challenge

Girls' Soccer Team reaches for goals

Looking ahead to the 2000 girls' soccer season, Coach Matt Walker saw one thing, "Improvement."

Walker expected a new and improved squad after only winning four games the season before. Before the season started, the girls set team goals to ensure a great year. The team hoped to let half as many goals and score twice as many times as they did the year before.

The path to their goals started early in the summer. Walker worked the girls two days a week. When tryouts came around, players practiced twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening. The team endured grueling practices, with the girls running about five miles a day.

With a young and inexperienced team, the Pirates started their season.

The girls gave a strong showing in their opening match against state runner-up, Andrean. From there, the girls fought their way to a 4-0-1 record, to match their wins from the year before.

Lead by Renee Ramos, '01, and captains Aubrey Fairbairn and Jessica Gross, '01, the team "continued to see improvement throughout the season," Walker commented.

The team finished with a record of 7-8-2.

The Pirates lost a tough sectional match to Crown Point, but Walker felt they "really showed their improvement" in the match.

The team met their goal offensively, by scoring twice as many goals from the last year.

With such a young team, the girls' Soccer Team looks forward to setting and reaching new goals.

—Meredith Lucas

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
2	Andrean	1
1	Elkhart Central	1
5	Laporte	2
	Bishop Noll	
6	Danville	0
0	Brownsburg	7
0	Chesterton	8
1	Valparaiso	6
5	Griffith	2
6	Michigan City	0
1	W. Lafayette	3
2	Crown Point	4
2	Munster	2
5	Hobart	3
1	Portage	7
1	Lake Central	4
1	Crown Point	3
	Sectionals	
1	Crown Point	3



First Row: Edwina Aponte, Renee Ramos, Jessica Gross, Aubrey Fairbairn, Mirjana Kljajic, Tiffany White; Second Row: Annie Stupic, Margaret Szczerba, Jenny Jansen, Laura Sopko, Julie Seagraves, Brittany Williams, Meghan Mauman; Back Row: Coach Tom Spitzer, Lisa Ross, Marissa Vawter, Shay Kuzma, Julie Collins, Coach Matt Walker.



To lead by example, Aubrey Fairbairn, '01, works hard and plays tough as one of the Pirate's senior captains.

Julie Seagraves, '02, hustles to keep the ball away from a tough Chesterton team. The girls lost a hard fought game to the Trojans.







Annie Stupic, '02, concentrates on her footwork. She must be on top of her game; she is the Pirate's last line of defense.

Margaret Szerba, '02, hopes to steal the ball from her Trojan opponent. She must play aggressively to make a difference on the field.



Forward Brittany Williams, '03, jets down the field for a goal. Williams is one of the team's leading scorers.

Injuries do not hold team back

One last time, for the coach

The girls' Cross Country Team finished a strong season this year.

Since it was Coach Phil Hey's last year coaching Cross Country, everyone on the team had high goals for the team. The team wanted this year to be the best year for Coach Hey to remember.

"We had a good season even though we had a lot of injuries," noted Armalita Muro, '01.

The injuries throughout the whole season were a setback for the Lady Pirates.

Leslie Kleminski, '01, suffered from blisters the whole season and she was in a car accident a week before sectionals.

Jennifer Arambula, '01, suffered from shin splints.

Haatal Dave, '02, pulled a groin in the middle of the season.

Despite these injuries, they still came together and ran the best they could.

"The seniors were the ones who had the most determination considering how it was their last year," Muro said.

Kleminski, Muro and Aimee Ruder, '01, were the captains of the team. They kept the team strong and lead the pack throughout the season.

The team had high hopes to win sectionals this year, but they placed third.

In regionals the girls placed third again, beating the two teams that beat them in the sectional.

—Kortina Gates



Captain Armalita Muro, '01, shows her intensity. She is a senior who had a lot of heart.

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
15	Andrean	40
17	Griffith	45
19	Lowell	42
35	Portage	20
15	Hobart	50
40	M. City	15
27	LaPorte	30
50	Valparaiso	15
50	Chesterton	15
28	Crown Point	30



First Row: Chrissy Lieus, Amy Pivovarnic, Jennifer Arambula; Second Row: Jennifer Ramirez, Kasey Samson, Aubrey Szany, Pauline Petruch, Aimee Ruder, Nilija Neely; Back Row: Haatal Dave, Claudia Nava-McCain, Coach Phil Hey, Leslie Kleminski, Armalita Muro.

Girls' Cross Country



Lady Pirates show their Pirate Pride in the pack. The ladies always try to stay together in each meet.

Jennifer Ramirez, '01, and Haatal Dave, '02, set their pace. Both were returning runners for the Lady Pirates.







The Lady Pirates start the race against Portage at MHS. Before each meet, the Pirates set the goals they wanted to meet.

Captain Aimee Ruder , '01, gives it all she has against Portage. Ruder was an outstanding runner for the Pirates for four years.



Captain Leslie Kleminski, '01, shows her long stride. Kleminski was one of the strongest runners on the team.



Jason Shelton, '01, strides to stay ahead. Shelton is a returning runner with a lot of determination.

Team pulls together

Boys finish season strong

The boys' Cross Country Team finished a great season this year. As the season progressed the team came closer and closer together.

"The team is always pulling each other together at practice and at the meets," Coach Greg Pierson noted.

However, the team did have some injuries that affected the team scores. Ciro Ramos, '03, was injured in sectionals. Jason Shelton, '01, would have to drop out of some meet because of a injured foot. Rob Prentoski, '01, had shin splints during the beginning of the season.

"Rob Prentoski and Jason Shelton had the most motivation and determination during the season," Coach Pierson said. "They gave all of their strength throughout the entire season."

The boys finished their season by placing third in sectionals and fifth in regionals.

—Kortina Gates

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
26	Boone Grove	27
18	Portage	47
21	Hobart	37
18	Michigan City	44
19	LaPorte	40
15	Valparaiso	50
44	Chesterton	19
24	Crown Point	32
Gavit Invitational		3rd place
T.F. South Invite		9th place
Michigan City Invite		3rd place
New Prairie Invite		1st place
Hobart Invite		3rd place
Clark Invite		1st place
DAC Meet		5th place
Sectionals		3rd place
Regionals		3rd place
Semi-State		15th place



Back Row: Ryan Allender, Michael Minnick, Jason McGee, Rob Prentoski, Mark Roberts, Cliff Cook; First Row: Jason Shelton, Joe Jurissa, Andre Toney, Coach Greg PiersonAustin Floyd, Marc Maple, Jimmy Riddle.

Boys' Cross Country



The boy's Cross Country Team takes long strides in a pack. The team had a lot of victories this year.



Ciro Ramos, '03, finshes hard after a long run. Ramos is a newcomer on the varsity team.



Rob Prentoski, '01, takes a look on a win. Prentoski was one of the strongest runners on the team.



The team takes a jump with the gun. The boys had a lot of heart throughout the season.



Marc Mapie, '02, strides toward victory. Mapie has been running throughout high school.

A learning season for the Pirates

Dedication pays off for young team

"Believe!" shouts the Merrillville varsity Volleyball Team as they walk out on to the volleyball court.

With lots of dedication, this young team had to work twice as hard to get where they wanted to be.

The team started in the summer every day with rec in the morning. They also worked a strenuous week of team camp. Once July 31 came, the girls had started their season with tough conditioning and hard-worked practices.

With only four returning varsity players, this year was a learning season for the Pirates.

"Being a young team, we have to work twice as hard to get where we want," a returning varsity player, Irene Menchaca, '01, said.

This team was overlooked by many of their opponents. They showed them that teamwork and dedication pays off. They advanced it to the sectional championship game with Lake Central. The Pirates played one of the best games of the year, even though they were defeated.

Aimee Plukas, '02, and Lisa Newell, '02, were key returning varsity players. Both showed their strengths during every game.

The Merrillville Lady Pirates had a few particular goals this season. One of the most important was to improve their game every time they walked out on to the court.

—Liz Balcerak

Scoreboard

Opponent	Score
Griffith	W 15-7, 15-8
Lowell	L 3-15, 14-16
Hebron	W 16-14, 15-10
Whiting	L
Andrean	L 15-7, 12-15, 1-15
Lake Station	W 15-7, 12-15, 15-2
LaPorte	L 9-15, 11-15
Lake Central	L 15-13, 6-15, 6-15
Hobart	W 15-2, 15-6
Calumet	W 15-3, 15-10
Bnl	W 15-11, 15-10
Portage	L 15-6, 7-15, 5-15
Chesterton	L 12-15, 6-15
Morton	W 8-15, 15-11, 15-4
Crown Point	W 5-15, 15-6, 15-9
Valparaiso	W 1-15, 15-9, 15-12
Michigan City	L 6-15, 2-15
Plymouth	L 15-13, 4-15, 8-15



First Row: Maegan McPhee, Christine Aloia, Tiana Coleman, Janice Hallenback, Amanda Burden; Second Row: Coach Amy Govert, Liz Gallinatti, Coach Tania Price, Irene Menchaca, Coach Jane Warren; Third Row: Anelida Aponte, Lisa Newell, Kim Shapley, Carol Newell, Back Row: Aimee Plukas, Meredith Lucas.

Volleyball



During a time out, Coach Tania Price gives advice to her players. The Volleyball Team played against and lost to long-time rival Lake Central.

Aimee Plukas, '02, sets up the ball for a kill during the Lake Central game. She played an important role during the 2000 season as the only setter for the Pirates.







Irene Menchaca, '01, dives to save the volleyball from hitting the ground during the Lake Central game. Menchaca was a three year varsity player.

During the Lake Central game Lisa Newell, '02, jumps high above the net to hit the ball. Christine Aloia and Aimee Plukas get down low to cover her.



During the Lake Central match Meredith Lucas, '01, gets ready to pass up a serve coming her way.

Experience for next time

Learning year for young team



Laura Jostes concentrates hard on her putt during a match. Jostes was one of three returning seniors.

The girls' Golf Team went out on the course only to improve their game by tournament time.

Losing four seniors, they had to start from the beginning. Coach Joe Starkey had a young team with little experience.

Kirsten Kaiser, Crystal Croson and Laura Jostes, all '01, provided team leadership.

This team also had to overcome injuries.

They wanted to be better by sectionals, and accomplished that goal. They were only two strokes away from the regional. Rachael Moody, '02, played well and advanced to the regional as an individual.

"We had nothing to lose. We played as hard as we could and everyone stepped up," stated Kaiser.

Coach Starkey was pleased with the progress the girls had made throughout their season.

The girls on the golf team said they had a fun season. They learned how to play the game of golf and also how to work as a team.

—Liz Balcerak

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
266	Boone Grove	231
249	Wheeler	246
	DAC Invite	
	Chesterton	400
	LaPorte	378
	Michigan City	428
	Valparaiso	375
478	Merrillville	
253	Lowell	217
253	N. Newton	267
254	Kankakee Valley	216
241	Michigan City	210
227	Munster	211
226	Crown Point	189
241	Valparaiso	196
209	Hobart	212
245	Portage	209
229	Andrean	213
228	LaPorte	182
225	Chesterton	231
222	Lake Central	196



First Row: Kim Smith, Laura Jostes, Lindsey Richards, Rachael Moody; Middle Row: Amy Petry, Jacqlene Barsich, Pauline Katsouros, Danielle Oveanek, Kirsten Kaiser; Back Row: Jennifer Coates, Coach Joe Starkey, Crystal Croson.

Girls' Golf



Crystal Croson, '01, swings at the ball to get away from the water during an intense golf game. She played an important role on the golf team.

Lindsey Richards, '04, swings at the ball to get her best stroke. She is one of the freshmen who played varsity for the Pirates.







Lindsey Richards, '04, putts the ball after getting it out of the sand. Richards played well coming out for her first year of golf.

Jacqlene Barsich, '04, concentrates on lining up her putt during her golf game. She is one of the freshmen players who played many varsity meets.



Crystal Croson, '01, gets ready to sink her putt.

Coach East joins 500 club

DAC and Sectional Champs

The boys' Basketball Team continued their winning ways this year with a 20-5 record.

Going into the season, the Pirate's goals were to play hard, compete well and perform their best.

Led by four-year starters Lonnie Randolph,'01, and James Borom, '01, the team had a senior dominated lineup.

"I was very satisfied with team performance this year," said Coach Jim East.

The win over Bishop Noll marked East's 500th career victory this season.

The Pirates faced many competitive teams throughout the season, but the state ranked teams presented the biggest challenge.

The four regular season losses were against teams that at one time were ranked in the polls this year.

The Pirates won their third consecutive sectional title by defeating the Crown Point Bulldogs.

The Pirates also won their third consecutive Duneland Athletic Conference title by defeating all of the conference teams.

The Pirates lost at Regionals by a score of 47-44 in a tough battle against the East Chicago Central Cardinals.

With four varsity players and an undefeated JV team waiting in the wings, Coach East said he has high expectations for next year.

— Kortina Gates

Justin Johnson, '02, wins the opening tip against Penn. Johnson was one of the primary post players for the Pirates.



Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
49	Highland	39
67	Munster	47
	Roundball Rumble	
36	Warren Central	69
58	Andrean	41
69	Michigan City	56
63	Roosevelt	70
70	Hobart	37
51	Chesterton	38
65	Maconaquah	50
54	Pike	74
52	Crown Point	41
62	LaPorte	49
52	Lake Central	40
83	Hobart	53
77	Portage	62
55	Boone Grove	44
80	Chesterton	67
73	Valparaiso	60
71	E.C. Central	67
46	Penn	49
77	Bishop Noll	60
85	Gavit	33
	Sectionals	
70	Lew Wallace	47
55	Lake Central	50
59	Crown Point	41
	Regionals	
44	E.C. Central	47



First Row: Omar Gore, Igor Ristevski, Norman Sherwood, Lonnie Randolph, Allen Babowsky, James Borom; Second Row: Victor Sawyer, Rameses Montgomery, Cheryl Hoagland, Jenniter Sierra, Bruce Blue, Brittany Cobb, Kelly Polster, Wesley Doty, Reggie Williams; Third Row: Coach Craig Adelsperger, Alan Gavin, Alex Vasileski, Justin Johnson, David Brown, Coach Leo Bonin; Fourth Row: Vince Cole, Theresa Sciaccotta, Coach Jim East, Ashley Suggs, Ron Glaze; Back Row: Trainer Sean Hudson, Meredith Lucas, Nicole Sweeney, Mike Orzechowicz, Rachael Hammond, Katie Floyd, Coach Steve Leonard.

Boys' Basketball



The Pirates huddle near half court before the Sectional game. The team repeated as DAC and Sectional Champs.

Coach Jim East calls out instructions to the team from the sideline. East won his 500th career game this year.









James Borom, '01, prepares to dribble past the opposing team's defender. Borom played on varsity for four years.

Omar Gore, '01, prepares to shoot the ball during a home game. Gore was the sixth man this season.

Lonnie Randolph, '01, is announced for the pregame during the Sectional semi-final. Randolph was a four-year starter for the varsity team.

Team posts winning record

Lady Pirates grow up quickly

Some young teams take a long time to bring it together.

The 2000-01 version of the Lady Pirates (12-10, 3-4) gelled very quickly in the middle of the season. They posted the most wins and had the best record of all Lady Pirate teams since 1989.

The Pirates reached the sectional finals for the first time in eight years.

Coach Joe Poteet was proud of his team this season.

"My team was very goal oriented this year, and they reached most of their goals," said Coach Poteet.

The team was led by the three seniors, Allison Derico, '01, Christina Peete, '01, and Jenny Orze, '01.

"I hope the team continues with our success next year," said Derico.

Through a series of comebacks, the team showed poise and discipline all season long. They also showed that they deserve to play with the elite teams in the conference with their tough defense, strong will and never- say-die attitude.

— Ray Dix



Marshay Jolly, '04, looks to score. Most teams had a tough time trying to stop the versatile Jolly, who was voted all conference.

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
38	Highland	65
59	Logansport	39
57	Lowell	18
50	E. C. Central	49(OT)
44	Griffith	42
69	Michigan City	41
42	Crown Point	70
54	LaPorte	44
	S.B. Riley Invite	
67	Mishawaka	70(OT)
51	S.B. Riley	64
63	Hobart	48
60	Lew Wallace	50
46	Lake Central	58
38	Portage	46
50	Chesterton	54(OT)
31	Andrean	61
32	Valparaiso	48
65	Munster	37
56	Boone Grove	36
59	Wheeler	43
	Sectionals	
55	Lowell	35
42	Crown Point	65



Front Row: Julie Seagraves, Kelly Pero, Heather Rhenehan, Allison Dericho, Jamia Hope, Christina Peete, Morgan Marovich; Back Row: Coach Amy Govert, Coach Ron Kurth, Melissa Sanchez, Marshay Jolly, Jenny Orze, Head Coach Joe Poteet, Coach Tom Spitzer.

Girls' Basketball



Jamia Hope, '02, shows her concentration against a tough Highland opponent. Hope is one of the players who will carry the team next year.

Christina Peete, '01, shows her shooting touch that was key for the Lady Pirates all season. Peete, one of the senior leaders on the team, earned most valuable player honors.









Allison Derico, '01, calls out instructions to her teammates. Derico ran the offense for the Pirates this season.

Melissa Sanchez, '02, shows her strength and determination. She will be a key player for the Lady Pirates next year.

Heather Renehan, '02, looks to pass the ball to an open teammate. Renehan was one of the Lady Pirate sharpshooters throughout the season.

Teamwork is key to advancing

Gymnasts are unstoppable



Christie Kamanaroff, '01, prepares for her floor exercise routine. She mesmorizes the judges and audience with grace and talent.

The girls' Gymnastics Team had a successful season. With the help of their coaches Diane and Bill Roberts and the effort put in by the girls, they were unstoppable.

The gymnasts, led by senior captains Katie Dyer, Christy Kamanaroff and Megan Skorupa, repeated as Pirate Pride Invite champs, Duneland Athletic Conference champs and Regional champs.

An undefeated dual season, along with a new floor exercise school record, prompted the team's first place state ranking five weeks in a row.

The Pirates, favored to win the state championship, had a near perfect state meet. Katie Tanis earned a fourth place medal for her performance on floor exercise. Dyer, ranked seventh in her class with a 3.9 G.P.A., received the Mildred M. Ball Mental Attitude Award.

"The team bounced back from personal tragedies to finish the season successfully," said Coach Diane Roberts. "This was a testament to their teamwork and tenacity."

—Jessica Moreno

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
108.475	Michigan City	91.00
110.90	Lowell	93.80
107.975	Hobart	103.05
107.425	LaPorte	93.875
1st	Pirate Pride Invite	
110.475	Portage	102.475
110.50	Chesterton	107.475
110.825	Valparaiso	104.50
111.85	Crown Point	99.90
1st	DAC	
2nd	Sectionals	
1st	Regionals	
4th	State	

(A technical error resulted in a 5th place finish at State.)



First Row: Kara Lux, Katie Tanis, Nicole Sparger, Megan Skorupa; Middle Row: Julie Collins, Melissa Vargas, Katie Dyer, Christie Kamanaroff, Jenna Hill; Back Row: Coaches Diane and Bill Roberts.

Gymnastics



Coach Diane Roberts gives the girls encouragement before the meet. Teamwork and concentration make Merrillville one of the best in Indiana.

Kara Lux, '03, prepares for her dismount from the balance beam. Lux, Katie Tanis, '03, and Katie Dyer, '01, have set a new school record for floor exercise.









Katie Tanis, '03, performs on the uneven parallel bars. A leading sophomore gymnast, Katie's most consistent event is bars.

Megan Skorupa, '01, concentrates on her difficult tumbling skill. Megan prepares to perform a front aerial to a valdez position.

Katie Dyer, '01, executes a pike jump on the beam. This is one of the most difficult dance moves that a gymnast can do.

Mike Mays places in State Tournament

Team enjoys continued success

The Wrestling Team repeated as Sectional Champions and advanced eight grapplers to the Regional, six to the Semi-State and one to the State Tournament.

The future of MHS wrestling looks good because the sectional championship team consisted of four freshmen, four sophomores and three juniors.

Long hours of daily practice were one of the keys to the team's success.

"We practiced everyday and on Saturday. We worked real hard," said Clint Wimmer, '03.

"We always practice at our highest potential because there's always someone out to get you," added Mike Mays, '01.

All the wrestlers were pleased with their accomplishments as a team. They were also proud of senior Mays, who placed eighth at the state tournament, held at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

"I was very nervous and excited at the same time," commented Mays. "I never thought I would be competing against the best wrestlers in the state."

Many demands are placed on each wrestler to meet his goals, according to Coach Randy Qualitza.

"Mike and the other members of the team met these demands and were crowned Sectional Champions," Qualitza said. "Seniors Mike Mays and Nick Graves, Juniors Chris Gabriel and Joseph Thomas and Sophomore Paul Kurczynski were all sectional champions in their respective weight classes."

Mays' accomplishments this season had a positive effect on many of the other wrestlers.

"Mike Mays is my idol," Wimmer commented.

Many of MHS students and wrestling fans in the region doubted the Wrestling Team this season because many seniors were lost to graduation last year. As it turns out, the Wrestling Team repeated as Sectional Champions despite the fact that they were the underdog entering the tournament.

"Everyone thought we were going to lose, and it felt good to prove them wrong," said Mays.

—Meghan Mauman

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
1st	Logansport Invite	
34	Valparaiso	29
6	Portage	42
3rd	Tom Cameron Invite	
25	Crown Point	45
4th	Lake Central Duals	
2nd	Munster Super Duals	
33	Chesteton	36
3rd	Super Duals	
54	LaPorte/M.City	12
3rd	DAC	
42	Hobart	22
1st	Sectionals	
	Team Regional	
19	Griffith	40
Team Dual Meet Record		17-11



Front Row: Rob Wahlman, Paul Kurczynski, Mike Mays, Joseph Thomas, Coach Randy Qualitza; Second Row: Tony Allison, Denairo Equihua, Chris Gabriel, Albert Escobedo, Tom Vechey, Clint Wimmer; Back Row: Coach Rob Petyko, Coach Kevin Jolas, Trent Harris, Juston Miller, Rob Huish, Nick Graves, Joe Szczerba, Ben Graves, Jeff Abrego, Brad Woodward, Justin Previs, Joey Jordan, Breon Harris.

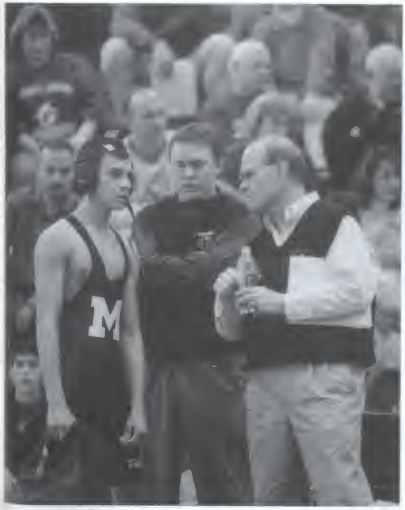
Wrestling



Mike Mays, '01, accepts his award as Sectional Champion. Mays finished his career at MHS by finishing eighth in the State Tournament.

Brad Woodward, '03, grasps on to his Highland opponent. Woodward works in position to score a takedown.





Albert Escobedo, '02, talks with his coaches about strategies needed to win the match. A wrestler must be focused while on the mat.





Chris Gabriel, '02, thinks of a way to reverse his opponent. Chris will be co- captain of the 2001-2002 Pirate Wrestling Team and will attempt his third sectional championship next year.

Joe Thomas, '02, attempts a switch to reverse his opponent. Known by his teammates as "JT," Thomas was DAC Conference and Sectional Champion.

Team has best record in 19 years

A positive end to a year to remember

This year's Swim Team had good favor on its side.

Janelle Benda is placing a positive mark on the diving team this year.

Most of the diving team agrees that Benda knows what she is doing.

"We have gotten a lot better than last year," said Peter Sierra, '01.

"The team is much closer than ever before. It's like we are a family," commented Sierra.

To encourage the team, Co-Captain Ken Badylak, emphasized that "winners never make excuses."

The Swim Team has also improved on its record from last year.

This year's team finished third at the Conference and Sectional meets, the highest the Swim Team has ever placed in 19 years.

This year Coach Bryon Angerman was named the Sectional Coach of the Year. This was the first time a Angerman won the award with the boys' team.

Tim Randolph, '02, won 200 IM and 100 freestyle at the DAC Meet.

Randolph, the team MVP, also won 100 and 50 in the freestyle division at Sectionals.

At State, the team finished 17th overall. This was the highest an MHS boys' Swim Team has scored under Angerman.

Two divers, Sierra and Whitney Lake, '01, qualified to go to State.

Sierra placed 9th and Lake placed 11th.

Badylak, Randolph, Nathan Pritchard, '01, and Chris Adams, '03, all qualified for the 400 free relay.

The 400 relay team finished 26th at State.

Randolph finished 3rd in the 50 freestyle and 5th in the 100 freestyle at the State Championships.

— NayNay Bagwell

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
91	Portage	95
98	Rennsselaer	88
3rd	Munster relays	
95	Hobart	90
103	Highland	83
94	Crown Point	92
118	Griffith	68
3rd	Laporte Invite	
95	Valparaiso	91
98	Lafayette Jeff	87
102	Kankakee Valley	74
114	Michigan City	72
112	Laporte	74
73	Munster	112
74	Chesterton	112
3rd	DAC	
113	Lowell	73
3rd	Sectionals	
17th	State	



First Row: Nick Milos, Tony Stofko, Nathan Pritchard, Joe Piukas, Pete Sierra, Joe de la Cruz; Second Row: Jose Beneventa, Chris Adams, Dave Rooda, Tim Randolph, Ed Sabian, Cliff Golon, Brian Cruz; Third Row: Mike Wadley, Tony Sablan, Justin Singer, Paulo Lordan, Dan Lopez , Josh Diaz, Adam Stetson, Kyle Beshears, Jamal Keeton; Back Row: Ryan Midkiff, Cody Camp, Josh Harvoth, Tim Baiko, Dan Niksch, Whitney Lake, Ken Badylak.

Boys' Swimming and Diving



David Rooda, '03, rises out from the water like a true champion.

Whitney Lake, '01, executes his dive with precision and grace. Lake always tries his best to have the perfect dive.









Josh Harvoth, '02, shows the team that striving to be the best takes a lot of effort.

Co-Captain Ken Badylak, '01, swims his event during one of the swim meets.

Co-Captain Ken Badylak, '01, Tim Randolph, '02, and Nick Milos, '03, watch their teammates perform while standing next to the pool.

New coach brings new style

Pulling together at the right time

The 2001 girls' Swim Team is all about togetherness.

The girls really pulled together and made this team the best.

"Everyone on the team is here for you," said Cassandra Pavlovich, '01. "The girls on the team really make you feel like you are apart of something special."

Pavlovich was one of the state's best divers this year. She won the conference and sectional title for the second time in her career. Also, Pavlovich won the Penn Regional and finished ninth in the state championships.

With her unique style, new diving coach Janel Benda made a difference for the girls.

"She's a great coach," said Dawn Molchan, '01.

"Since she just got out of college, she knows some of the more difficult dives which can help us score higher in meets," Pavlovich said.

The girls finished sixth at the DAC meet and third at sectionals. At sectionals Lisa Ross and Danielle Molchan qualified for the state finals.

Molchan won the 50 freestyle at sectionals and finished 26th at the state meet.

Ross won the 200 I.M. and the 100 Butterfly at sectionals to qualify. Ross finished eighth in the I.M. and 16th in the 100 Fly at State and holds the school record in both of those events.

The team finished 22nd at the state championships which left Coach Bryon Angerman pleased with the effort the team had over the long season.

— NayNay Bagwell

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
100	Lowell	81
52	Chesterton	132
59	Portage	125
93	Rensselaer	93
7th	LaPorte Invite	
110	Hobart	51
73	Highland	112
60	Crown Point	126
93	Griffith	91
66	Valparaiso	119
83	Laffyette Jeff	103
79	Michigan City	107
6th	DAC	
74	LaPorte	112
69	Munster	117
3rd	Sectionals	
22nd	State	



Front Row: Jeannelle Moreno, Cynthia Gonzalez, Julie Montemayor, Christine Leus; Second Row: Elise Szany, Brittney Stocia, Dawn Molchan, Becky Stephen, Cassandra Pavlovich, Emily Mandich, Melissa Wadley; Third Row: Erika Larson, Ashlie Coleman, Danielle Molchan, Emily Peters, Megan Brake; Back Row: Lisa Ross, Ronda Fruehling, Jenny Slivka, Ashley Jones, Jenny Okichich, Julika Barthel, Heather McCoy.

Girls' Swimming and Diving



Lisa Ross, '02, rises out of the pool to take a breath of fresh air. With no time to waste, she goes back under the water and continues her swim.

Julie Trimble, '03, jumps off the diving board into a back arch.









Erika Larson, '04, flashes a look of determination while she swims down to the other end of the pool.

Cassandra Pavlovich,'01, thinks intensively before executing her dive. Pavolvich was one of the area's best divers.

Dawn Moichan, '01, balances on the diving board, preparing for another dive.

Cheering on the Pirates

Cheerleaders Show Their Spirit



Meredith Lucas, '01, cheers on the Pirates. Lucas enjoys getting the crowd involved.

Do you ever wonder what a cheerleader feels while cheering, stunting and dancing in front of a big crowd?

"It's a rush of energy and excitement," said Meredith Lucas, '01.

Cheerleaders also have to perform in front of big crowds. Some people would not be able to do what these athletes do day in and day out.

"When all eyes are on you, it's kind of nerve-wrecking," Katie Floyd, '02 said. "You get used to the crowd after a while and turn the nervousness into fun."

After a while, the team becomes a family.

"When you are around a group of people for over a year, you bond and become really good friends," said Lucas.

MHS is one of many schools with a co-ed cheerleading squad. Not all schools have the ability to have both guys and girls cheer on their team.

"The guys are a great help with stunts! When things get frustrating, they're willing to try just about anything," commented Floyd.

—Meghan Mauman



First Row: Ashley Suggs, Cheryl Hoagland, Nicole Sweeney, Meredith Lucas. Second Row: Kelly Poister, Brittany Cobb, Jennifer Sierra. Third Row: Theresa Schicola, Melissa Vargas, Katie Floyd, Rachel Hammond.

Cheerleading

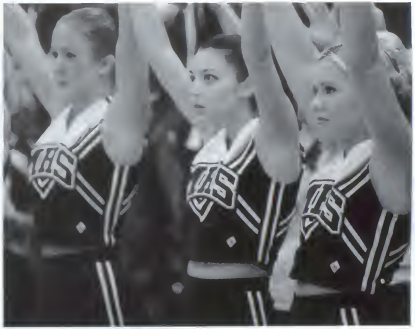


MHS cheerleaders excite the crowd as they pose in the air. Many cheerleaders feel a rush of energy when they perform these stunts.

Bruce Blue, '01, uses the megaphone to get the fans involved. This is Blues' second year cheering for the Pirates.







Rachel Hammond, Jenniter Sierra and Kelly Polster, all '02, cheer on the Pirates. All three cheerleaders have been involved in cheerleading since middle school.



Nicole Sweeney, '01, cheers on the Pirates at the Homecoming football game. Sweeney enjoys getting the crowd involved.

Jenniter Sierra, '02, makes stunting look easy. Sierra likes to see the fans' mouths drop in amazement.

Dance team makes big changes

Out with the old, in with the new

The 2001 season for the Merrillville High School Dance Team was full of new surprises. The girls worked with a new coach and adapted to a new style of dancing.

"This year things haven't come as easy as in the past, so we have had to pull togther and work harder," said Captain Elena Gonzalez, '02.

With their new coach, Jody Zowadni, the season began in the summer with three practices a week and a strenuous week of band camp. Their hard work paid off during football season when they performed with the band at halftime and won first place at Purdue Band Day.

The competitive season brought another new idea. The competition squad became optional and Merrillville only competed in the Division II dance category.

The poms have also taken on a new style of dance.

"In the past we have been known for our pom, but recently we have been trying more ballet and funk type dancing. It is much more electric," said Captain Tina Damjanoski, '01.

With all the new people and new dancing, the Dance Team has a bright future ahead.

"We have really been working to come together as a team, and hopefully in the future it will shine through," added Gonzalez.

—Meredith Lucas



Front Row: Elena Gonzalez, Jamie Nelson, Sarah Kennedy, Christina Damjanoski; Second Row: Olivia Obregon, Fontaine Stegall, Carey Ruckman; Third Row: Stacey Kavois, Melissa Stewart, Ginger Francis, Theresa Nixon; Back Row: Ronisha Pratt, Laura Horwith.

Dance Team



Trevy Ramos, '02, dances during the poms pregame performance. The Dance Team does a little something before the game to get the crowd going.

Two junior poms strike a pose during their performance. Olivia Obergon, '02, and Stacy Kavois, '02, both dance for the varsity team.









Sarah Kennedy, '03, flashes a smile towards the crowd. Facial expressions are very important while performing a dance.

Stop and check out Fontaine Stegall, '03, during her dance performance. Stegall was a new member to the varisty team.

Laura Horwith, '01, busts a move during halftime. Horwith loves to perform, especially their Incubus routine.

Daniel jumps to the State Title

Boys capture fourth Sectional Title

The boys' Track and Field Team had another memorable season this year.

The team won their sectional by upsetting the competition and advanced several team members downstate.

They brought the fourth straight Sectional Title with a 24 point victory over second place Crown Point.

The Merrillville team had four individual champions at the Sectional.

Ben Daniel, '01, won the high jump. Dan Niksch, '01, took first in the discus. Ciro Ramos, '03, was the champ in the 3200 meter run. Adam Wilson, '01, won the shot put.

Even with the victory over Crown Point in the Sectional, everyone on the team agreed that Crown Point was one of the most competitive teams they ran against this year.

The Pirates overcame a slow start to finish fourth place at the Regional.

They advanced five athletes to the State Meet. Daniel won the high jump at State.

Niksch advanced in the discus, after winning his event in the Sectional.

Chris Gough, 01, advanced in the shot put and the discus.

David Neville, '02, finished seventh at State in the 100 meter dash.

Adam Wilson, '01, also advanced downstate for the shot put.

This year's team was led by many seniors.

Daniel's highest jump this season was 6'9".

"This has been a blessed final year for me," said Daniel.

—Dontreal Williams

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
33	Michigan City	50
33	Valparaiso	84
48	Chesterton	84
3rd	W. Lafayette Relays	
47	Crown Point	39
47	Portage	80
87	LaPorte	52
87	Hobart	28
3rd	DAC	
1st	Sectionals	
4th	Regionals	



First Row: Shaun Crittenden, Michael Hill, Antonio Sabian, David Morrow, Chris Harris, Sean Simpson, Keith Murphy, Martin Cole, Ryan Allender, Brandon Mosely; Second Row: Darius Smith, Vincent Cole, Rob Prentoski, Terese Erikson, Jason McGee, Ben Daniel, Adam Wilson, Megan Diaz, Dan Niksch, Chris Gough, Jason Shelton, Ashley Dallas, Alan Azcona, Cliff Cook; Third Row: Jonathon Polak, Joe Clark, Mike Orzechwicz, Austin Floyd, Coach Jett Clinkenbeard, Coach Mike Hottman, Coach Jim Johnston, Coach Brian Past, Coach Matt Walker, Jarret Kelly, Maurice Miller, Ryan Midkiff, Eddie Contreras, Andrew Leicht; Fourth Row Matt Jagieia, Darnell Cole Jr., Joey Jordan, Jared Byczko, Jh'Rome Tuggle, Marc Maple, Joe Jurisa, Roy Wilbanks, Jason Pierce, Jason Williams, Geraid Mosely, Joseph Thomas, Steven Doxas; Fifth Row: Luke Nienhaus, Mark Roberts, Mike Bunneil, Jett Meding, Earl McClain, Jake Appleton, Darren Cudjoe, Claude Powers, Ryan Underhill, Tim Randolph, Joe Mustata, Jarrett Darling, Jake Minnick, Brian Nienhaus; Back Row: Pat Magee, Josh Everett, Jerry Williams, Justin Moore, Skyler Smith, Aaron Powell, Tom Sovich, Jon Budz, Nick Fisher, Andre Toney, Gary Clark, Ciro Ramos, Ed Sabian.

Boys' Track and Field



Ben Daniel, '01, clears the bar on his first attempt of 6'4". Daniel was the best high jumper in the state this year.

David Neville , '02, crosses the finish line during the 400m relay. Neville finished seventh in the 100 meter dash at the State Meet.







Using good form, Daren Cudjoe, '02, jumps over the hurdle. Cudjoe provided points in the 110 meter and 300 meter hurdles throughout the season.



Dan Niksch, '01, prepares to throw the discus. Niksch was ranked eighth in the nation.

Jeff Meding, '02, runs with the pole to attempt his maximum leap of 13'6". Meding was the best pole vaulter at MHS.

Dyer wins hurdles at State Championships

Competing with the state's best

The girls' Track and Field Team has been known for its resiliency over the last couple of years. The same holds true for this year's team.

The Lady Pirates were met with numerous challenges, and still came out to give it their all in every meet.

The Duneland Conference was very competitive this season.

"I can't remember the last time our conference was this competitive," said Coach Joe Atria.

The Pirates finished third at the Duneland Athletic Conference Meet.

At that time, the media and other teams started to count them out in Sectionals.

The Pirates were not picked to win their Sectional but the shocked the competition and enjoyed a large margin of victory.

"I think that the competitive conference prepared us for the Sectional. Our girls were confident and ready," said Coach Chris Fields.

The Pirates also gave it their all at the Regional this year.

The team sent the 4x1 relay team of Kortina Gates, '01, Krystle Jones, '01, Katie Dyer, '01, and Alysia Fortney, '03, to the State Meet.

"I really wanted to prove that I was ready for the level of competition at Regionals and State," said Dyer.

Dyer won the State Title in the 100 meter hurdles. Dyer also finished a close second in the 300 meter hurdles.

The Pirates showed everyone who doubted them to never count out the heart of a champion.

—Ray Dix

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
1st	Merrillville Invite	
64	Chesterton	19
64	Crown Point	51
42	Lake Central	73
42	Highland	18
45	Michigan City	51.5
45	Valparaiso	59.5
57	Chesteron	66
2nd	W. Lafayette Relays	
57	Crown Point	54
57	Portage	45
89	LaPorte	40
89	Hobart	28
3rd	DAC	
1st	Sectionals	
4th	Regionals	
8th	State	



First Row: Pauline Petruch, Kim Smith, Katie Floyd, Ariel O'Neil, Maya Rothstein, Aimee Ruder; Second Row: Tara Schaab, Candice Woods, Trevy Ramos, Christie Kamanaroff, Kasey Samson, Jessica Gross, Megan Lacny, Jennifer Arambula, Rosa Sanchez, Kanesha Jennings; Third Row: Nikisha Jefferson, Amy Petruch, Gloria Peay, Julie Collins, Annie Stupic, Kelly Pero, Katie Dyer, Haatal Davé, Alysia Fortney; Fourth Row: Coach Phil Hey, Kortina Gates, Lindsey Solomon, Kelly Halcarz, Kelly Samson, Ebonee Pace, Leslie Kleminski, Jamie Sweeney, Krystle Jones, Coach Ryan Pitcock; Back Row: Coach Chris Fields, Claudia Nava-McCain, Ashlie Coleman, Laura Sopko, Michelle Janeski, Tristen Congress, Danielle Molchan, Serreana Jackson, Coach Joe Atria.

Girls' Track and Field



Kortina Gates, '01, and Krystie Jones, '01, compete against each other to finish first. Both had competitive seasons.

Michelle Janeski, '01, watches to see where her shot put goes. Janesia was one of the top throwers in the area.









Katie Dyer, '01, concentrates on getting over the hurdle. Dyer was a repeat as the Regional champion.

Ashlie Coleman, '01, makes her attempt over the high jump bar. Coleman was Sectional as well as DAC champion.

Haatai Davé, '02, checks her watch to see how long she has been running. Davé was one of the top distance runners this year.

Meredith Lucas, '01, hurries to get the ball back to the infield. Lucas made the transition from second base to right field this year.



Respond to the challenge

Building for the future

The girls' Softball Team finished an injury-plagued year with a record of 5-24.

Entering the season, the girls had goals to play their best, maintain high averages and win.

The Lady Pirates, even though winless for the first nine games, improved as the year went on. Erin Wolfe, '02, had a batting average of .460, ranking her one of the top hitters in the area.

Her statistics earned her a spot on the All-Conference Team.

"The highlight of the year was the sectional win over Crown Point," said Coach Bob Bergeson.

Coach Bergeson also said that the team's pitching and defense improved toward the end of the season.

Heidi Hammond, '04, said she wanted a higher batting average and a better record.

Meredith Lucas, '01, one of the team leaders, said that the season wasn't a failure, but more of "a learning process."

—Jayne Horan

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
9	Griffith	15
	Penn Invite	
0	Penn	12
0	Lafayette Jeff	8
8	South Bend LaSalle	10
0	Valparaiso	2
0	Boone Grove	6
1	Chesterton	11
0	Crown Point	6
2	Hobart	4
12	Michigan City	2
0	Portage	7
5	LaPorte	8
0	Thornwood	7
4	Thornwood	10
0	Valparaiso	24
0	Lake Central	12
3	Chesterton	6
4	Crown Point	2
	Twin Lakes Invite	
2	Boone Grove	5
1	Benton Central	4
1	McCutcheon	2
4	Lowell	5
5	Hobart	2
0	Munster	8
6	Michigan City	3
0	Portage	5
2	LaPorte	4
	Sectionals	
5	Crown Point	2
0	Munster	3



First Row: Erin Morgan, Jolynn Vargas, Meredith Lucas, Heidi Hammond, Kate Santeramo, Julie Seagraves; Second Row: Monique Navarro, Janice Hallenbeck, Erin Wolfe, Desiree McDaniel, Jennifer Ponce; Back Row: Coach Jim Lucas, Tiffany Smith, Jenniter Orze, Coach Bob Bergeson, Lisa Kadelak, Heather Hulsh, Coach Amy Govert.

Softball



Desiree McDaniel, '03, lets the pitch go by during a game against Boone Grove. McDaniel split time behind the plate and in the field.

Jolynn Vargas, '04, throws the ball in from the outfield. Vargas made contributions as a freshman on varsity.









Lindsey Richards, '04, prepares to field the ball. Richards spent some time as the leadoff hitter this year.

Kate Santeramo, '03, throws to first for an easy out. Santeramo was a returning starter from last year's team.

Erin Wolte, '02, stops the ball pitched to her. Wolte was an All-Conference Outfielders for the Pirates.

Macke's last season ends with Sectional Title

Team advances to first Regional since '98

After 13 seasons with Merrillville High School, Coach Fenton Macke is calling it quits. He has had success in his days as a Pirate and this year was no exception.

The Pirate Baseball Team advanced to the Regional in Laffyette, and gave Macke his first Sectional win since '98.

The Pirates boasted a 19-11 record, beating Highland, Kankakee Valley and Lake Central.

Heading into the season, the Pirates were well prepared after tough pre-season conditioning.

The Pirates were conditioning in the beginning of January, getting back to the basics.

Behind pre-season All-State, Jon Byerly, '01, and Steve Gill, '02, the line-up was full of young blood but well prepared.

The Pirates had high expectations for their pitching also and have been very satisfied with how their pitchers have pulled through.

The Pirates had three strong arms in rotation with Nick Graves, '01, Justin Curtis, '02, and Jason Giordano, '02.

This year's squad is close both on and off the field.

"Our team has really gelled well, and we are all good friends. We have a lot of fun," stated Justin Hansen, '01.

Merrillville continually showed improvement, and upset Crown Point in the Sectional Championship.

The Pirates rallied for six runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to take the Sectional crown.

"We clicked at the right time. We played good baseball at the right time. It was a great feeling," Byerly said.

—Meredith Lucas

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
11	Hammond	1
5	E.C. Central	0
1	Boone Grove	3
5	Valparaiso	8
12	Chesterton	13
6	Kankakee Valley	5
5	Crown Point	6
16	Hobart	6
7	Michigan City	2
5	Evanston	4
7	Evanston	6
5	Portage	1
3	LaPorte	15
11	Lowell	5
2	Valparaiso	13
4	Chesterton	5
3	Crown Point	4
13	Hobart	4
8	Michigan City	6
9	Highland	1
14	Portage	12
0	LaPorte	7
5	Lake Central	4
2	Bishop Noll	1
3	Andrean	11
6	Munster	4
0	Munster	9
	Sectional	
11	Lowell	1
6	Crown Point	4
	Regional	
5	Anderson-Highland	7



Front Row: Chris Gabriel, Jason Giordano, Kyle Van Winkle, Nick Roberts, Scott Smoljan; Second Row: Chad Snyder, Craig Oils, Clinton Pearson, Steve Gill, Nick Graves, Randy Brodner; Back Row: Justin Hansen, Jon Byerly, Coach Fenton Macke, Justin Curtis, Eric Price, Coach Zac Wells.

Baseball



The Pirates discuss strategy before the start of a game. Coach Fenton Macke led the Pirates this year in his final season as head coach.

Justin Hansen, '01, stretches to catch a throw at first base. Hansen hit consistantly in the five spot for the Pirates.







Scott Smoljan, '01, prepares to connect with a pitch from the opposing team. Smoljan was also a key player in the Pirates' infield at second base.

Nick Graves, '01, begins his delivery to the plate. Graves pitched several games for the Pirates this season.



Chad Snyder, '02, concentrates on his target before throwing a pitch. Snyder also played third base for the Pirates this season.

Tiffany Sajdera, '01, prepares to toss the ball for her serve. Sajdera was selected to play in the Indiana North South All Star game.



Lady Pirates finish fourth in State

Going farther than before

The girls' Tennis Team had another year to remember.

After winning a share of the Conference title, winning their Sectional, Regional and Semi-State, the Lady Pirates advanced as a team to the Final Four.

Merrillville (16-3) made it to State by defeating Munster in the Semi-State Finals by the score of 3-2.

The second doubles team consisting of Julie Lesniak and Lisa Ross, both '02, and the first doubles team consisting of Kathleen Szot, '03, and Radhika Dave, '01, won their matches to set up a showdown between the top singles players.

Casady Pruitt, '03, rose to the challenge and won the deciding point, sending her team downstate for the first time in school history.

Making the victory more special, the team won without Tiffany Sajdera, '01, the second singles player.

Sajdera sat out of the Semi-State with an ankle injury. Sajdera returned for the two state matches.

Sajdera was honored by being picked to the Indiana North All-Star team. Sajdera and Pruitt were also named to the All-Conference team.

"I was excited to be named to the team," said Sajdera

—Ricky Holtz

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
5	Highland	0
5	Lowell	0
5	Griffith	0
4	Andrean	1
5th	Plymouth JV	
2	LaPorte	3
3	Valparaiso	2
5th	MHS Doubles Tourney	
3	Lake Central	2
5	Portage	0
3	Chesterton	2
3rd	Jasper Tourney	
5	Hobart	2
5	Crown Point	0
4	Michigan City	1
	Sectionals	
5	Roosevelt	0
4	Andrean	1
	Regionals	
4	Michigan City	1
4	Chesterton	1
	Semi-State	
3	Warsaw	2
3	Munster	2
	State	
1	Anderson Highland	4
0	North Central	5



First Row: Julie Lesniak, Jasmine Dayon, Ariel Dennie, Ashley Taylor, Mgr. Michaela Martin, Casady Pruitt, Martina Martin, Jennifer Ramirez, Vanessa Rodriguez; Second Row: Mgr. Josh Diehl, Laura Vaughn, Tiffany Sajdera, Pauline Katsouros, Amanda Diehl, Molly Burt, Lisa Ross, Sherry Kwell, Mgr. Cole Perkins; Back Row: Coach Larry Swanson, Arlinda Nava-McCain, Radhika Davé, Kathleen Szot, Coach Dave Zimmerman, Emily Peters, Sarah Thomas, Julika Barthel, Coach Doc Levinson.

Girls' Tennis



Casady Pruitt, '03, returns a serve with authority. Pruitt was one of the top singles player in the state this year.

Tiffany Sajdera, '01, and Casady Pruitt, '03, team up for the MHS Doubles Tournament. The two teamed up over the summer to be quite a doubles combination.









Lisa Ross, '02, and Julie Lesniak, '02, talk strategy between points during their match. They played second doubles together for most of the year.

Amanda Diehl, '01, returns a serve during the first round of the Sectional. Merrillville once again was the Secional Champion this year.

Kathleen Szot, '03, keeps the ball in play during her matches. Szot made huge contributions this year.

Ken Badylak, '01, shows good form after hitting the ball from the tee. Badylak was always one of the low scorer for the Pirates.



Senior leads a young team

Two Pirates go to the Regional

The boys' Golf Team started the year off by quickly earning four wins in the first two weeks.

However, the main focus for the team was the post season. The main goal for the year was to make it back to the Regional once again.

The team was led by Ken Badylak, '01. Badylak, the only senior this year, assumed the leadership role on the team.

Badylak never disappointed the team when it came to golf.

"I'm not the star player," Badylak said. "I'm just the leader."

The team took sixth at the Duneland Athletic Conference Meet.

Though the team did not advance as a team, the Pirates were able to send two of their own to the regional.

At Sectionals Tony Stofko, '03, led the way for Merrillville by shooting an 80. Badylak also advanced by shooting an 82.

Next year, the Pirates' Golf Team will have more experience and the underclassmen will have to step into the leadership role.

The Pirates will once again be looking for the invitation to the Regional.

—Dontreal Williams

Scoreboard

MHS		Opp
13th	Marquette Invite	
168	Boone Grove	176
165	Andrean	163
165	Calumet	181
173	LaPorte	158
173	Portage	170
6th	K.V. Invite	
160	Valparaiso	160
160	Chesterton	158
168	Hobart	176
168	Michigan City	174
6th	Rensselaer Invite	
4th	Boone Grove invite	
184	Crown Point	155
169	Chesterton	168
169	Hobart	165
182	Crown Point	164
182	Michigan City	170
165	LaPorte	160
176	Valparaiso	165
176	Portage	167
6th	DAC	
4th	Sectionals	



First Row: Tony Stofko, Chris Nahlik, Raleigh Ensien, Steve Burke, Ryan Zurek; Second Row: Ken Badylak, Chris Trapane, Chris Hebert, Matt Aloia, Dave Uremovich; Back Row: Igor Ristevski, Coach Joe Starkey, Shawn O'Keefe.

Boys' Golf



Dave Uremovich, '04, drives the ball from the tee. Uremovich has a promising future with the Pirate Golf Team.

Tony Stolko, '03, chips the ball from the bunker toward the green. Stolko was part of the young lineup that the Pirates had this season.







Ken Badylak, '01, watches the flight of the ball after he hits it. Badylak provided the senior leadership to the younger players this year.

Ryan Zurek, '03, lines up his shot during a golf match. Zurek showed patience by looking for the best possible shot.



Chris Nahlik, '02, putts the ball into the hole. The team's putting has improved from last season.

Boys' JV Baseball

Row 1: Tony Allison, Dan Kwiatkoski, Paul Kurczynski, Eric Morris, Jared Dawson, Derek Roldan
Row 2: Joe Frasca, Steven Marcus, Nick Walter, Adam Tegtman, Brenton Robinson
Row 3: Jason Plys, Geoff Lalic, Coach Bill Roberts, Vince Torres, Ryan Romeo



Boys' JV Basketball

Row 1: Fred Dobry, Carl Hurd, Wade McKinley, Chris Harris, David Pritt, Steven Marcus
Row 2: Coach Leo Bonin, Geoff Lalic, David Coughlin, David Brown, James Johnson, Lavelle Cook, Vince Torres, Keith Murphy, Asst. Coach Craig Adelsperger



Boys' JV Soccer

Row 1: Matt Jagiela, Ken Detterline, James Mysliwiec, Dan Smith, John Gutierrez, Vince Cole, Jason Villars, Brian Nienhaus
Row 2: Lauren Homola, Matt Krysa, Brian Cruz, Nick Mileos, Brian Zdych, Dan Padberg, John Vazanellis, Zack Pearman, Ciro Ramos, Kwame Asabere, Jessica Gonzalez
Row 3: April Ramirez, Coach Richard Hurey, Jason Kendera, Igor Ristevski, Boyan Jovanovic, Joe Jurisa, Josh Diaz, Craig Olis, Brad Daniels, Coach Brian Past, Christie Kamanaroff



JV Volleyball

Row 1: Jamie Sweeney, Kim Shapley, Megan Furlic
Row 2: Monique Navarro, Kim Kish, Amy Wedding, Carol Newell, Amanda Burden
Row 3: Coach Tania Price, Heidi Hammond, Desiree McDaniel, Coach Amy Govert, Adaku Onyeka, Liz Gallinatti, Coach Jane Warren





Girls' JV Softball

Row 1: Eleni Anton, Kristine Paskash, Jaclyn George, Malorie Brummet, Christine Leus
Row 2: Samantha Sullivan, Melissa Russell, Lindsey Richards, Kelly O'Keefe, Jenna Hill
Row 3: Coach Jim Lucas, Jenniter Coates, Stephanie Villareal, Jenniter Mason, Lauren Strom, Jacquelyn Highsmith, Coach Andrew Niksich



JV Poms

Row 1: Megan Sobierajski, Domonique Henry, Joann Flores, Kristina Fleck, Tara Johnson
Row 2: Jenniter Mustata, Tara Murphy, Caitlyn Floyd, Deanna Howard
Row 3: Jolynn Vargas, Jeanette Fabian, Jessica Wieneke, Laura Lackey
Row 4: Felicia Parks, Missy Paniaguas, Ashley Gidley, Sarah Stackert



Girls' JV Soccer

Row 1: Celia Haro, Julia Roames, Rosalinda Sanchez, Mallory Homola, Ashely Obregon, Jaqueline Lipski, Kristina Milicevic
Row 2: Coach Matt Walker, Deanna Rivera, Marissa Vawter, Heather Phillippe, Jenniter Ponce, Megan Diaz, Amanda Panning, Coach Tom Spitzer



Girls' JV Basketball

Row 1: Pauline Petruch, Celia Haro, Liz Gallinatti
Row 2: Lindsey Richards, Ariel Dennie, Alisha Nalls, Desiré McDaniel, Tiana Coleman
Row 3: Coach Ron Kurth, Tittany Smith, Kim Shapley Karen Davis, Coach Tom Spitzer



Tracey Rico and Jenny Arambula, both '01, applaud as members of the Senior Class recieved awards. Students had voted earlier in the year to decide the winners.

Senior Memories



What an impression the last four years have made! The diverse people that we have met may become some of our lifelong friends. The many events we've been through together, ranging from assemblies, to games, to spring break, have been fun and taught us many valuable lessons. These experiences have had a major impact on our lives.

Although most students place a lot of value on the friendships they develop over the years, others cherish the memories from sports, clubs and other activities.

Students have applied to different colleges in hopes of beginning a new chapter in their life. Commencement means "a beginning".

Many students took high school seriously while others took it in stride. Others just embraced it and enjoyed the experience.

Everyone will leave with some high school memory that they will treasure for the rest of their lives.

—Mary Ann Fotis

Senior Choice Awards

Class of 2001



Class Clown
Erik Price &
Jenny Arambula



Most Popular
Lonnie Randolph, Cheryl Hoagland
& Scottie Smoljan



Most Unique
Steven Goin &
Melissa Shawver



Best Personality
Renee Ramos, Paul Kosteski
& Meredith Lucas



Best Smile
Katie Dyer &
Calvin Wallace



Most Talkative
Jeff Roth, Mike Evans,
Erik Price & Megan Skorupa



Most Spirited
Cheryl Hoagland
& Mike Lord



Best Sense of Humor
Erik Price, Melissa Kish & Matt Festa



Nicest Eyes
Mike Liess & Renee Ramos



Most Athletic
Lonnie Randolph
& Katie Dyer



Best Actor/Actress
Mike Zelisko &
Laurie Farver



Most Likely To Been Seen
At School Everyday
Jimmy Procter, Nicole Sweeney
& Ken Badylak



Best Body
Ashlie Coleman
& Dave Beale



Best Artist
Terrance Campbell
& Jessica Shotts



Best Dressed
Courtney Smith &
Cheryl Hoagland



Cutest Couple
Stephanie Spangler&
Matt Festa, Ben Daniel &
Ashlie Coleman



Best Hair
Chris Doneski &
Kirsten Kaiser



Most Likely to Succeed
Robert Perez & Nicole Sweeney



Most Musical
Kyle Vrotny & Melissa Gray



Most Intelligent
Darnell Cole, Jessica Gross
& Austin Floyd



Best Dancer
Christina Damjanoski



Most Actively Involved
Robert Perez & Melissa Kish

Senior Fieldtrip

We can never turn back the pages of time, though we may wish to relive a happy moment, or say goodbye just one last time, we never can, because the sands of time continue to fall, and we can't turn the hourglass over.

— Author Unknown





Steve Schaab races around the go-cart track at Innman's Recreation Center. Go-carts were a hot commodity, and many waited in line for an hour.



Kewanna Julkes strikes a pose in her race cart after a few laps around the track. Many raced around the track, while others turned it into bumper cars.



Marisa Valdez and Nina Fernandez get rowdy on the bumper boats. A lot of students walked away soaking wet.



A group of MHS seniors pose while waiting in line to ride the bumper boats. Students took every oppurtunity to take a photo and save a memory.

Chris Crook lines up his shot as he plays a game of pool. Besides outdoor games, students kept busy in the arcade, bowling alley and pool hall.





Lisa Kadelak has a great time soaking her classmates on the bumper boats. This was the last fieldtrip for all the seniors.



Seniors all socialize on the bus ride home from the fieldtrip. The trip was a great time for everyone.

Mirko Ivanovic reads the Senior Magazine to see what his classmates left in their wills. The magazine was called "We've had the Time of Our Lives."



Lonnie Randolph video tapes a group of senior boys showing off their Polish pride during the Senior Drive-Around. This group brought out water balloons to add a little fun to the event.







A group of senior girls smile for the camera in the back of their Ford Escape. They know that this will be one of their last high school memories.



J.R. Wimbish, Mike Ford and Brandon Marcus chow down during the Senior Breakfast. This year's class wanted traditional breakfast food, not chicken patties.

Senior Breakfast



"Don't be dismayed at good-byes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends."

—Richard Bach

Vice President Irene Menchaca, President Robert Perez and Secretary Melissa Kish hand out Senior Awards at the 2001 Senior Breakfast. The Awards ranged from "Class Clown" to "Most Likely To Succeed."



Robert Prentoski, Mike Muvceski, Nick Hildago and Calvin Wallace show their Macedonian pride during the Drive-Around. Trucks and flags were a trend at this year's Senior Drive-Around.



A group of Senior girls arm up for the Senior Drive-Around. These girls drove in an Army truck to leave a lasting impression.

Graduation

Class of 2001

"If we hold on to the values and lessons taught to us at MHS, nothing is beyond our reach. Who better than the MHS class of 2001 to lead the world?"

— From Valedictorian Jessica Gross's commencement speech



Jessica Gross adresses the audience during her commencement speech. Gross focused on the future of the Class of 2001.



Superintendent Dr. Tony Lux hands Katie Dyer her diploma. Dyer graduated seventh in her class.

Irene Menchaca and Liz Balcerak hug after the graduation ceremony at the Radisson Star Plaza. It was an unforgettable night for both.







Pandemonium breaks loose as the graduates turn their tassels. This was an emotional moment for everyone.



President Robert Perez makes a joke while giving his speech. Perez quoted the wisdom of Dr. Suess.

Mark Megyesi embraces Mrs. Evelynn Ennsman as he journeys across stage. This was Mrs. Ennsman's last graduation.

Senior Memories



"Each of us is given a pocketful of time to spend however we may. We use what we will. We waste





what we will. But we can never get back a day."

—Author Unknown






MHS
MHS


SKETBALL


2





Senior Memories







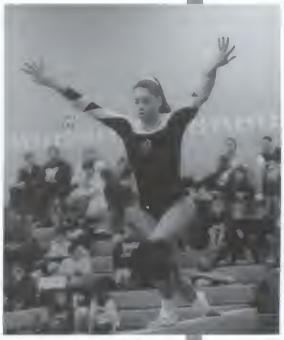












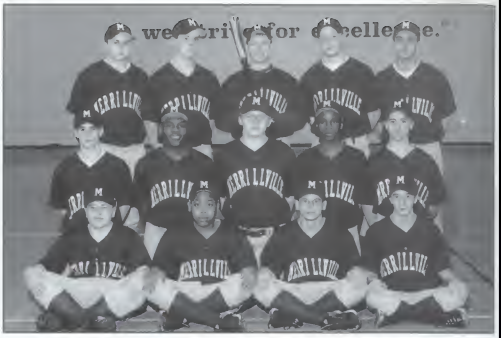




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Index

Aaron, Maurice 109
Abbott, Jessica 68
Abbott, Matthew 68
Abdul-Hafiz, Idris 99, 146
Abdullah, Suad 38, 68
Abrego, Jeff 99, 146, 168
Acosta, Darky 99
Acosta, Juan 111
Acunal, Jeannette 111
Adame, Erica 99
Adams, Chris 99, 146, 170
Adams, Gregory 111
Adams, Jessica 68
Adler, Brian 68
Adelsperger, Craig 190
Aftab, Syed 89
Agne, Christopher 99
Agne, Josh 47, 89
Agoris, Jennifer 43, 111
Agosto, Richard 6, 89
Aigner, Joseph 89
Aimone, Michael 68
Albano, Jennifer 122
Albers, Cheryl 126
Albright, Courtney 41, 45, 54, 64, 111
Alcala, Naomi 68
Alder, Cory 99
Alder, Jeremy 68
Aleman, Randall 45, 111
Alexander, Patrick 99
Alford, Taiwan 89
Aliff, Andrew 68
Alleman, Tiffany 17, 89
Allen, Eugene 89, 146
Allen, Tiffany 47, 89
Allender, Ryan 47, 52, 111, 156, 178
Allison, Tony 45, 89, 168, 190
Aloia, Christine 41, 42, 44, 99, 158, 159
Aloia, Matt 89, 97, 150, 188
Alston, Nicole 97
Alvarez, Gabriela 89
Alvarez, Jorge 111
Amazigo, Eunice 68
Ambroziak, Beverly 122
Ameling, Joseph 38
Amelse, Blair 43, 111
Amey, Taneshia 99
Amundsen, Michael 89
Anaya, Esperanza 89
Anaya, Jose 68
Anderson, Darrian 68
Anderson, Janet 122
Anderson, Michael 99
Anderson, Nadja 43, 111
Andreatos, Nicholas 99
Angelidis, William 122, 127
Angerman, Bryon 170, 172
Angotti, Dominic 45, 46, 111
Anton, Angelo 45, 46, 47, 68
Anton, Eleni 45, 111, 191
Aponte, Anelida 89, 158
Aponte, Edwina 68, 152
Appleton, Jake 99, 146, 178
Arambula, Jennifer 68, 154, 180, 192
Arce, Julian 111
Archibale, Antwan 111
Argenta, Sarah 89
Argue, Samantha 44, 59, 89
Arize, Emeka 99
Armstrong, Ryan 111
Artibey, Kristina 89
Arviso, Casey 99
Asabere, Baffour 68, 146
Asabere, Kwame 99, 190
Ashe, Amber 89
Ashe, James 89
Ashe, Jeremiah 99
Ashford, Brian 99
Ashley, Emilee 89
Ashworth, Bill 127
Assibey-Mensah, Vanessa 41, 89
Atria, Joe 122, 146, 180
Atwood, Elizabeth 68
Aubuchon, Mitchell 41, 42, 68
Avery, Daniel 99



Boys' Freshman Baseball Team
Front Row: Joseph Gutierrez, Derron Spencer, Dragan Trajkovski, Kevin Saberniak; Second Row: Adam Pumnea, Donnie Hopson, John Kasper, De Andre Burks, Scott Saberniak; Back Row: Eric Nelson, Joshua Curtis, Coach Randy Horka, Justin Previs, Thomas Peterson

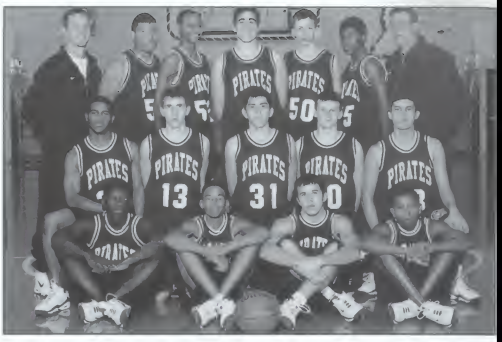
Ayala, Sarita 89
Ayers, Carlton 47, 68
Ayers, Shannon 46, 99
Azcona, Alan 42, 46, 68, 146, 178
Azeem, Sohail 46, 111
Badylak, Ken 39, 68, 170, 171, 188, 189
Baez, Carlos 86
Bagwell, Lynette 68
Bailey, William 99
Bainbridge, Thomas 122
Bakos, Michael 111
Balcerak, Elizabeth 2, 69, 201
Baldner, Gabrielle 69
Balich, Alan 99
Balko, Tim 99, 101, 170
Bandy, William 99
Banks, Robert 38, 41, 45, 89
Bannister, Shavon 69
Banser, Allison 99
Barbauld, Christopher 99
Barcinski, Jonathan 99
Barker, Michelle 40, 122
Barksdale, Cedalia 69
Barksdale, Pearlene 69
Barman, Lorin 89
Barnack, Christine 25, 39, 111
Barnes, Ditanial 99
Barnes, Kathy 89
Barnett, Jacob 111
Baron, Amber 122
Baron, Don 19, 43, 122
Baron, Krysta 111
Barrera, Adrian 89
Barron, Justin 47, 111
Barry, Megan 89
Barsich, Jacqlene 111, 160, 161, 191
Barsley-Marra, Betty 42, 122, 136
Barthel, Julika 39, 69, 172, 186
Basemore, Ayesha 45, 111
Bateman, Caleb 40, 41, 46, 47, 99
Battle, Brandon 111
Battle, Kamika 111
Bazziel, Jillian 69
Bazziel, LaCara 69
Beale, Dave 5, 69, 146, 147, 234
Beam, Courtney 69
Beard, Bernard 43, 111
Beard, Lashawna 111
Beckham, Amy 122
Bedwell, Rob 38, 122
Bell, Alissa 69
Bell, Jonathan 86
Bell, Raymond 86
Bellard, Dana 99
Beller, Brandon 69, 150, 151
Bellmon, Eugene 99
Bellmon, Genevieve 69
Benavente, Jose 89, 170
Benavides, Michael 69
Benda, Janelle 170, 172
Benton, Natosha 86
Berger, Ashley 111, 191
Bergeson, Robert 125, 182
Berk, Joshua 89, 146
Berry, Jason 89
Berry, Robyn 111
Berta, Michael 45, 57, 99, 122, 146
Bertram, Mary Ann 41, 122
Beshears, Kyle 47, 51, 99, 170
Best, Adrienne 38, 69
Best, Paul 38, 43, 45, 99
Beville, Katie 39, 97
Beville, Kenneth 111
Bewley, Lisa 89
Biancardi, Joshua 99
Bielak, Nicole 111
Bigelow, Stephanie 44, 99
Binkley, Erin 44, 69, 240



Girls' Freshman Volleyball Team
Front Row: Megan Lacny, Melissa Wadley, Lindsey Solomon, Diana Prentoski, Heidi Hammond, Jaclyn George; Back Row: Virtina Savage, Coach Jane Warren, Kelly Williams

Birmingham, Aubrie 247
Birmingham, Nicole 41, 89
Bishop, Christopher 99
Bishop, Matthew 14, 89
Bishop, Ryan 99
Bishop, Stephanie 111
Black, Taura 43, 111
Blackmon, Darnell 69
Blakey, Teilah 111
Blakey, Tiara 111
Blanchard, Jocelyn 38, 61, 69
Blanco, Miguel 99
Blue, Brittiney 43, 111
Blue, Bruce 28, 69, 146, 147, 175
Blue, Deondra 111
Bobowsky, Allen 29, 89
Boise, Wade 122, 146
Boksa, Brian 99
Boksa, Patrick 69
Boldan, Derek 99
Bonilla, Chivvon 99
Bonin, Leo 190
Booker, Brandy 99
Boone, Heath 99
Borom, James 69, 146
Bothwell, Paul 121
Boulrece, LaDonna 89
Bowden, Angela 99
Bowen, Tamara 42, 46, 89
Bowie, Daryl 126
Bradford, John 45, 57, 122
Bradley, Oscar 121
Brainard, Aubrey 39, 47, 64, 99, 109
Brake, Laura 111
Brake, Megan 172
Branda, Alan 122, 148
Branda, Drake 148
Branda, Greg 46, 111, 148, 149
Brasovan, Peter 99, 102, 150
Braylock, Christina 111, 137
Brazeau, Joey 69, 236
Brazeau, Samantha 111
Brazlovitz, Tiffany 99
Breen, Stacey 111
Breitenstein, Shawna 99
Breneman, Samantha 111, 121
Bridges, Jocefina 99
Brodner, Randy 41, 42, 47, 69, 146, 184
Brooks, Lyndsey 70
Brooks, Sylvester 99, 146
Brosch, Stephanie 111
Brosch, Tiffany 99
Brown, Angela 70
Brown, Darneshia 111
Brown, David 89, 190
Brown, Erica 89
Brown, Issac 86
Brown, Jessica 38, 39, 47, 111
Brown, Joy 122
Brown, Korrian 111
Brown, Leon 99, 146
Brown, Matthew 89
Brown, Megan 39, 89
Brown, Shawna 99
Brown, Terrell 111
Bruce, Cecelia 247
Brumfield, Gregory 121
Brummet, Dean 89
Brummet, Malorie 43, 111, 191
Brunn, Jerry 47, 89
Bruns, Matthew 86
Brusven, Jennifer 24, 111, 191
Bryant, Irvin 70
Bryson, Christopher 111
Buck, Patrick 99, 146
Budde, Amanda 99
Budde, Phillip 111
Budz, Jonathan 89, 146, 178
Buhse, Jeremy 111
Bukovac, Anthony 99
Bulanda, Cindy 45
Bulanda, Cynthia 111
Bunnell, Mike 89, 97, 146, 178
Burden, Amanda 89, 158, 190
Burgos, Monica 39, 122
Burke, Stephen 44, 111, 188
Burks, Deandre 111
Burnett, Demetre 111
Burress, Melissa 89
Burt, Molly 42, 43, 99, 186
Burum, Jonathan 111
Busch, Michael 111
Busch, Raymond 70
Busse, Michelle 89
Butler, Amanda 111
Byczko, Aaron 8, 9, 70150, 238
Byczko, Jared 9, 99, 150, 178
Byerly, Jon 30, 70, 184
Bynum, Christine 111
Cadikovska, Monika 111
Cadwell, Vanessa 111
Camisa, Jason 89
Camp, Cody 111, 170
Campbell, Robert 89
Campbell, Steven 99, 141
Campbell, Terrance 43, 46, 60,70
Campos, Camille 70
Campos, Domenica 99
Cannon, Scott 99
Cantrell, Vicky 47, 89
Cardwell, Sarah 99
Carl, Anthony 112
Carter, Ebony 44, 70
Carter, Jessica 112
Carter, Jonathan 100
Carter, Keenan 112
Carter, Lashawn 100
Carter, Racheal 70
Carter, Tyson 100
Carter, Viveca 38, 122, 134, 135
Cartwright, Michael 1, 112
Cartwright, Ryan 122
Caruthers, Rachel 44, 89
Casady, Heather 112, 117
Casanova, Carlos 89
Cassoday, Joshua 89
Castro, Katherine 42, 70, 247
Catania, Krystal 89
Caton, Elizabeth 112
Certa, Sarah 89
Champion, Jeffery 112
Charleston, Nikolas 100
Cheek, Carletta 122
Chenault, Jim 70
Chiang, Chia 38, 40, 45, 89
Chiang, Hsin 40, 42, 70
Christoff, Jennifer 29, 38, 70
Christoff, Linda 122
Christoff, Pete 70
Christopher, Andrew 112
Christopher, Andy 141
Cioni, Emil 89
Cisneros,Yesenia 70
Cisneros, Jessica 70
Clanton, Arlesia 100
Clark, Gary 100, 178
Clark, Jennifer 100
Clark, Joseph 112, 178
Clark, Shakeila 89
Clark, Shawn 89, 121
Clark, Tameshia 5, 100
Clemens, Aaron 100
Clemons, Kim 89
Clinkenbeard, Jeff 122
Coates, Jennifer 100, 160, 191
Cobb, Brittany 16, 28, 89, 174
Coburn, Tina 24, 41, 44, 62, 89
Coin, Jason 70
Colbert, Matthew 46, 112, 117
Cole, Darnell 41, 42, 44, 59, 150, 178
Cole, Martin 41, 100, 150, 151, 178
Cole, Vincent 112, 178, 190
Coleman, Ashlie 22, 23, 59, 70, 172, 180, 181, 237
Coleman, Crystal 89
Coleman, Kenneth 89
Coleman, Ronald 112
Coleman, Tianna 112, 158
Collins, Cecil 46, 112
Collins, Cedric 47, 112

Collins, Julie 112, 152, 166, 180
Collins, Matthew 90
Collins, SeAndrea 45, 90
Comer, Javan 90
Congress, Tristen 38, 43, 100, 180
Conn, Christopher 86
Connelly, Brenton 112
Conner, Brenda 112
Conner, Lavashia 43, 112
Conquest, Sarah 90
Conroy, Ashley 112
Contreras, Eddie 47, 112, 178
Cook, Cliff 47, 112, 156, 178
Cook, Lavell 112, 190
Cooper, Jessica 42, 70
Cooper, Todd 112
Copic, Natasha 112
Copic, Nebojsa 42, 70
Cordell, Cassidie 112
Cordilla, Santino 90
Corman, Kimberly 122
Correa, Ignacio 100
Corsey, Lauritz 71
Cortes, Lesly 112
Cotton, LeDaniel 46, 100
Couarrubias, Kristina 121
Coughlin, David 100, 190
Coughlin, Erin 90
Cousino, Amanda 100
Covarrubias, Kristina 43, 112
Cox, Alexandra 97
Craft, Philip 100
Craft, Ryan 90
Craig, Clarice 90
Crittenden, Shanell 100
Crittenden, Shaun 46, 112, 113, 117, 178
Crook, Christopher 71, 197
Crosby, Josh 38, 141
Crosby, Shaun 97
Croson, Crystal 42, 160, 161, 71
Cruz, Brian 100, 170, 190
Cruz, Mariel 100
Crystal, Eileen Peden 80
Cuadra, Carlos 112
Cudjoe, Daren 90, 178, 179
Cunningham, Matthew 41, 44, 62,90
Cunningham, Nicholas 112
Curtis, Joshua 45, 112
Curtis, Justin 90, 184
Curtis, Kristina 100
Cvetan, Christy 38, 41, 42, 71, 138, 139
Czubik, Allison 112, 141
Czubik, Kate 40, 41, 44, 90
Dabis, Carla 71
Dabis, Lara 11, 42, 90
Dabu, Guille 40, 42, 45, 100
Dabu, Kristine 38, 41, 42, 44, 70
Dabu, Kristofer 41, 44, 45, 63, 90
Daily, James 122
Daily, Mark 112
Dallas, Ashley 112, 178
Dallas, Nicholas 90, 146
Damjanoska, Kristina 16, 41, 100
Damjanoski, Christina 42, 50, 71, 176
Danford, Mitchell 100
Daniel, Benjamin 41, 71,150, 151, 178, 179
Daniel, Bradley 112, 190
Daniel, Larry 121
Daniels, Amanda 112, 117
Daniels, Larry 112
Danko, Michael 71
Danko, Michelle 45, 112
Darden, Monique 90
Darling, Jarret 100, 146, 178
Dave, Haatal 90, 154, 155, 180, 181
Dave, Radhika 38, 40, 71, 186
Davis, A.J. 46
Davis, Amy 46, 47, 122
Davis, Anthony 112



Freshman Boys' Basketball Team
Front Row: Jerry Williams, David Morrow, Ed Vega, Derrick Jones; Second Row: Brandon Mosley, Jason Kendera, Ricardo Hernandez, Jack Neylon, Tom Peterson; Back Row: Coach Zac Wells, Cecil Collins, Skylar Smith, Bojan Jovonovic, Erik Severson, Jh'Rome Toggle, Coach Jim Vermillion

Davis, Christina 43, 112
Davis, Elisha 100
Davis, James 109
Davis, Karen 39, 100
Davis, Rico 112
Davis, Tiffaney 44, 90
Davis, Zachary 90
Dawson, Jared 100, 190
Dayon, Jasmine 42, 47, 112, 186, 191
Dean, Deniel 100
Deborah, Hawkins 47
Decker, Jessica 90
Degard, David 100
Del Real, Gustavo
Degard, Tony 146
DeJesus, Angela 7, 71, 112
Delacruz, Danessa 45, 90 128
Delacruz, Jeremy 121
Delacruz, Josef 45, 100, 170
Delacruz, Sharon 42, 71
DelaRosa, Lisa 45, 112
DelReal, Maria 2, 100
Demeuse, Nicole 100
Deming, Kimberly 112
Deming, Kimmi 47
DeMuth, David 122, 245
Denise, Kendall Jefferson 75
Dennie, Arial 46, 90, 186
Dennis, Leroy 71
Dennis, Marquita 39, 71
Denvit, Robert 90
Denvit, Timothy 90
Denvit, William 90
Dereamer, Robert 112
Derico, Allison 47, 51, 71, 135, 164, 165
Detterline, Kenneth 90, 190
Deutsch, Shannon 112
Deyarmin, Do'nnee 100
Diamond, Adam 45, 112
Diamond, Ariel 47, 71
Diaz, Josh 100, 170, 190
Diaz, Megan 43, 112, 178, 191
Diehl, Amanda 23, 30, 38, 41, 42, 71, 186, 187, 246
Diehl, Joshua 100, 106,148, 186
Dieterle, Brittney 112
Dilbone, Damien 90
Dillon, Bianca 90
Dillon, Randolph 90
Dix, Raymond 71
Dixon, Leah 90
Djordjevic, Nedeljko 97
Djukic, Marko 112
Doan, Harrison 86
Dlouhy, Barb 122, 132
Dobes, Thomas 40, 90
Dobry, Fred 45, 100, 190
Doeing, Aaron 100
Doeing, Angela 44, 100
Doko, Anna 2, 15, 90
Dominguez, Deshaunte 112
Dominguez, Nicole 43
Donahue, Joshua 112, 148
Donelson, Elizabeth 45, 112
Donelson, James 71
Doneski, Risto 86
Donley, Dorothy 100
Dooley, Patricia 112
Dorsuleski, Pere 90, 97
Doty, Wesley 90
Dow, Bradley 100
Dow, Tracy 109
Downs, William 100, 146



Girls' Freshman Basketball Team
Front Row: Jennifer Brusven, Megan Nichols, Jasmine Dayon; Second Row: Ashley Berger, Heidi Hammond, Veronica Page, Jacqlene Barsich, Rosalinda Sanchez; Back Row: Kiyanna Harris, Virtina Savage, Coach Ron Kurth, Diana Prentoski, Courtney Woodfaulk

Doxas, Steven 100, 178
Drake, Julius 112
Drapeau, Chris 41, 46, 90
Draper, Molly 41, 44, 71
Draper, Nancy 122
Dravet, Brandon 35, 86
Drees, Douglas 112
Drljaca, Nikola 86, 137
Druckemiller, Britne 112
Dugger, Misti 19, 71
Duggins, Jennifer 100, 247
Dukleski, Pero 71
Dunkin, Bianca 109
Dunlap, Myeisha 112
Dunscombe, Myles 122
Dust, Lori 122
Duttweiler, Melissa 41, 100
Dwyer, Kevin 100, 146
Dyer, Katie 72, 166, 167, 180, 181, 201

E

East, Jacob 100
East, James 122
Eaton, Keith 44, 112
Ebler, Richard 122
Echols, Dathan 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 53, 90, 148
Eckrich, Terence 90
Eckstrom, Matthew 100
Edgcomb, Dee 40, 122
Edgington, Krystal 100
Edward, Joseph Ameling 68
Eich, Trevor 112
El-Omar, Ali 86
El-Omar, Wessam 100
Elam, Josh 18, 112
Elder, Elizabeth 28, 100
Elkins, Tina 38, 72
Eller, Joi-Lyn 100
Ellinger, Daniel 86
Ellinger, Nina 112
Elliott, Shane 113
Ellison, Lunetta 45, 90
Elser, Amanda 90
Elser, Mandy 41, 44
Emig, Roger 43, 44, 58, 122
Emmons, Monique 43, 90
English, Dana 39, 72
Ennsmann, Evelyn 122, 201, 244, 245
Enslen, Raleigh 46, 113, 188
Equihua, Dane 100
Equihua, Denairo 72, 168
Ericksen, Terese 100, 105, 178
Escobedo, Albert 90, 168, 169
Escobedo, Angela 72
Escobedo, Michael 6, 100
Espinosa, Victor 72
Estes, Dan 45, 46, 47, 90
Estes, Sharon 122
Evans, D'andre 113
Evans, Michael 72, 138, 139
Evans, Rebecca 100
Everett, Joshua 90, 178

F

Fabian, Jeanette 47, 100, 105, 191
Fairbairn, Aubrey 72, 152, 153
Farley, Michelle 100
Farmer, Kevin 100
Farver, Laurie 24, 39, 41, 47, 48, 55, 63, 64, 72
Feagin, Rafe 100
Feeney, Tom 122
Ferguson, Todd 100
Fernandez, Nina 72
Fesko, Chris 86
Festa, Matt 46, 72
Fields, Chris 122, 180
Firme, Diane 122
Fisher, Edie 41, 122
Fisher, Nicholas 90, 146, 178
Fizer, Jennifer 28, 90
Fleck, Kristina 41, 46, 47, 90
Flores, Joanne 113
Flores, Oswaldo 46, 51, 90
Flores, Veronica 100
Flowers, Joshua 113
Floyd, Austin 42, 72, 156, 178
Floyd, Caitlin 41, 47, 100, 191
Floyd, Katie 41, 44, 62, 90, 174, 180
Floyd, Sheldon 43, 61, 122
Flynn, Timothy 122
Fogarty, Ryan 72
Foore, Nicole 72
Ford, Jarrell 100
Ford, Jason 113
Ford, Kelvena 86
Ford, Mike 46, 72, 198
Foree, Adara 28, 38, 72, 135
Forteney, Alysia 31, 101, 180
Fotis, MaryAnn 39, 72, 236
Fralinger, Lisa 90
Francis, Ginger 46, 47, 90, 176
Francis, Michael 90
Francis, Mike 146
Frank, David 101
Frasca, Joseph 101, 146, 190
Fravel, Brian 17, 101
Fravel, Kelli 90
Freeland, Marcus 101
Freeman, Catherine 72
Freeman, Donnie 101
Freeman, Kia 72, 97
Frey, Casey 46, 90
Frey, Julia 44, 90
Frey, Kenneth 90
Fries, Laura 126
Frost, Ayriole 113
Frost, Michael 101
Fruehling, Laruren 72
Fruehling, Ronda 101, 172
Fuentes, Marquita 72
Fultz, Tamika 60, 101
Furlic, Megan 90, 190
Furuness, Drew 122, 244

G

Gabriel, Chris 28, 42, 90,168, 169, 184
Gabriel, Lindsey 101
Gaffney, Jason 101, 146
Gaines, Peter 41, 72
Gaines, Steven 73
Gaines, Susan 126
Gallegos, Tiffany 39, 90
Gallinatti, Elizabeth 101, 158, 190
Garcia, Jennifer 28, 90
Garcia, Nancy 90
Garcia, Nicholas 113
Garibay, Domonique 101
Garner, Cassandra 41, 101
Garner, Kenita 90
Garner, Rick 122
Garrett, Marshall 86
Gary, Jason 121
Garza, Christina 86
Garza, Christopher 113, 146
Gates, Janet 105, 113
Gates, Kortina 73, 180, 181, 241
Gates, Marc 113
Gatlin, Onette 113
Gault, Charese 73
Gavin, Alan 97
Gavin, Alkia 90
Gawel, Steven 113
Gay, Colt 73, 97
Gay, Joseph 113
Gayda, Kathleen 73, 97
Gayton, Lorenzo 86
George, Jaclyn 113, 191
Georgevich, Christina 45, 101
Gerald, Gregory 113
Gerlach, Andy 73
Gerri, Amy Petruch 80
Geruska, Christopher 101
Gestring, Justin 113
Gestring, Laura 44, 91

Gibbons, Jon-Pierre 113
Gibbons, Larry 91
Gibson, David 109
Gidley, Ashley 113, 191
Gil, Julia 3, 73, 39
Gill, Richie 113
Gill, Stephen 91, 184
Gill, Steve 146, 147
Gillespie, Beth 29, 122
Gillooly, Hannah 113
Gilmore, Joy 91
Gilmore, Robert 101
Giordano, Jason 42, 91, 146, 184
Gjoreski, Zlatica 91
Gjurcinova, Sandra 113
Glaze, Ronald 73
Glaze, Sharon 91
Goin, Steven 17, 86
Golon, Cliff 41, 101, 109, 170
Gomez, Edgard 47, 73 234
Gomez, Karina 39, 91
Gomez, Oscar 91
Gonzales, Joshua 113
Gonzalez, Amanda 73
Gonzalez, Cynthia 30, 41, 101, 172
Gonzalez, Elena 91, 176
Gonzalez, Jessica 42, 91, 150, 190
Gonzalez, Mandy 42
Gonzalez, Michael 45, 101
Gonzalez, Nicolas 86, 150
Gonzalez, Stephanie 91
Gonzalez-Roberts, Krystal 101
Gore, Omar 73
Goreski, Zlatica 5
Gough, Chris 13, 73, 146, 178
Gough, Keith 91
Gouwens, Kelly 113
Govert, Amy 158, 164, 182, 190
Grace, Brandy 101
Grace, Jason 91
Graf, Daniel 113
Graf, Lisa 43, 113
Graham, Darrel 113
Graun, Emily 39, 46, 101
Graves, April 44, 58, 101
Graves, Ben 44, 113, 168
Graves, Nick 73, 42, 47, 146, 168, 184, 185
Gray, Cora 44, 101
Gray, Jason 73
Gray, Melissa 41, 44, 63, 73
Green, Aaron 91
Green, Eliot 86, 113
Greenberg, Derek 101
Greene, Jeremy 41, 45, 57, 73
Greene, Kristopher 43, 101
Greenleaf, Candace 91
Greenleaf, Cordelia 86
Greenwood, Frantoine 73
Greer, Tawana 91
Gregory, Chris 86
Gregory, Jeffrey 113
Gregory, Joseph 26, 73
Gregory, Nathan 73, 97
Gregory, Scott 5, 91
Gregory, Verona 113
Gresh, Karen 44, 65, 91
Grezovski, Riste 101
Griffin, Fabian 113
Griffin, Jennifer 43, 101
Griffith, Daniel 114
Griffith, Scott 114
Griggs, Renee 45, 91
Grimmer, Brittany 47, 91
Grimmer, Lorne 46, 114
Gross, Jessica 42, 73,152, 180, 200
Grove, Rodney 114
Grzesik, Samantha 29, 42, 91, 92
Grzesik, Tamara 91
Grzybowski, Justin 114
Guajardo, Adam 91
Guajardo, Samual 73
Guernsey, Stuart 8, 9, 101
Guerrero, Athena 73
Gust, Tim 91
Gutierez, John 8
Gutierrez, Christopher 101
Gutierrez, Jonathan 101, 190
Gutierrez, Joseph 114
Gutierrez, Matt 46
Gutierrez, Matthew 114
Guyer, Gale 122
Guzman, Cecilia 121
Hac, Jaclyn 102
Hacker, Abby 39, 47, 102
Hacker, Lacie 26, 38, 39, 41, 42, 45, 74
Hacker, Lauren 38, 39, 41, 42, 45, 74
Hadt, Christopher 102
Hadt, Jonathan 74
Hafiz, Hasan 91
Hain, Judy 123
Halaschak, Jeffrey 91
Halbe, Sandra 91
Halcarz, Kelly 102, 180
Halkias, Hara 42, 74
Halkias, Nicole 42, 74
Hall, Joseph 1, 114
Hall, Juan 91
Hall, Justin 24, 114
Hall, Linda 126
Hall, Matthew 114
Hall, Stephanie 41, 102
Hallenbeck, Janice 45, 91, 158, 182
Halligan, Michael 91
Hamilton, Adam 114, 148
Hamilton, Ashley 86
Hamilton, Denny 146
Hamilton, Jarrell 102, 137
Hamlin, Damara 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 102
Hammond, Heidi 114, 182, 190, 191
Hammond, Rachel 29, 91, 174, 175
Hampton, Megan 44, 74
Hancock, Tom 25, 42, 46, 47, 74
Handley, Nichole 102
Haneman, Julie 123
Hanley, Marlon 92
Hansen, Justin 74, 184, 185
Hardiman, Charlicia 114
Hardin, Courtney 42, 123
Harding, Lawrence 74
Hargrove, Lawrence 114
Harness, Jason 74
Haro, Celia 102, 191
Harreld, Lindsey 114
Harreld, Stacey 27, 42, 74
Harrell, Toni 74
Harris, Brandon 114
Harris, Breon 46, 102, 117, 168
Harris, Chris 46, 146, 178, 190
Harris, Dena 74
Harris, James 102
Harris, Jonathan 92
Harris, Joshua 74
Harris, Kiyanna 114, 191
Harris, Nathan 41, 92
Harris, Patrica 41, 42
Harris, Patricia 38, 74
Harris, Raphael 102
Harris, Trent 114, 168
Harstad, Patrick 102
Harter, Krystal 121
Harvoth, Joshua 92, 170, 171



Freshman Football Team
Front Row: Breon Harris, Derron Spencer, Robert Toth, Tom Vechey, Joe Gutierrez, Tim Snelson; Second Row: Joel Remaley, Jeff Gregory, Brandin Jones, Josh Flowers, Eddie Contreras, Deandre Berks, Jonathon Polak, Adam Zalewski; Third Row: Randy Aleman, Onette Gallin, Coach Don Malcher, Coach Jeff Clinkenbeard, Coach Tim James, Jorge Godinez, Nick Pajon; Fourth Row: Jerry Williams, Nick Kazonis, Justin Previs, Jack Neylon, Eric Nelson, Jerred Yagelski; Back Row: Shawn O'Keete, Mark Dailey, Justin Stanley, Trent Harris, Ricardo Hernandez, Jeff Messinio, Robert Wahlman

Hauber, Amber 102
Hauber, Bridget 114
Hawkins, Corey 102
Hawkins, Deborah 25, 46, 74, 97
Hawkins, Sharon 40, 46, 47, 102
Hayes, Chaya 92
Haymon, Tamara 114
Haynes, Kareem 102
Haynes, Shevrie 92
Haynes, Terrence 109
Hazlett, Thera 74
Head, Bryan 102
Hebert, Aaron 38, 114
Hebert, Christopher 92, 188
Hebert, Matthew 74
Heflin, Kristi 30, 38, 44, 74, 135
Heidbreder,Nicole 74
Heidler, Jenny 40, 42, 43, 102
Hein, Joe 127
Hemphill, JoaJuana 47, 114
Henderson, Elizabeth 92
Henderson, Immanuel 46, 74
Henderson, Jamarr 102
Henderson, Liz 43, 47
Henley, Demetrius 102
Hennessy, Sabrina 44, 102
Henry, Dominique 102
Hernandez, Antonio 74
Hernandez, Jacob 102
Hernandez, Jason 75
Hernandez, Ricardo 46, 114
Hernandez, Vanessa 114
Herrera, Maria 86
Herrera, Nicole 92
Herzog, Curt 15, 75
Herzog, Emily 114
Heuss, Bridgette 102
Hey, Phil 154, 180
Hickman, Don 127
Hicks, Shalonda 44, 102
Hidalgo, Nick 42, 75, 199
Higgins, Joshua 102
Highsmith, Jacquelyn 92, 191
Hill, Jenna 114, 166, 191
Hill, Michael 102, 178
Hill, Ryan 45, 56, 57, 75
Hill, Suretha 114
Hinton, Carmellia 43, 102
Hinton, Schmekia 39, 43, 46, 102
Hirjak, Matthew 102
Hoagland, Cheryl 23, 75,174
Hodges, Alexandria 102
Hodges, Travis 114
Hodges, Trevor 103
Hoffman, Michael 123
Hogan, Carol 126
Holley, Ronald 92
Holley, Timothy 103
Holly, Amanda 113, 114
Holmes, Andrew 92
Holt, Reggie 28, 41, 43, 97
Holtz, Ricky 39, 66, 75, 148
Homola, Lauren 39, 45, 92, 150
Homola, Mallory 45, 114, 191
Hooks, Alisha 47, 114
Hooks, Stacey 92
Hope, Jamia-Lyn 97, 144, 164, 165
Hopson, Donnie 114
Horan, Jayne 92
Hord, Steven 115
Horka, Randall 123
Horton, Antonio 97, 146
Horwith, Laura 42, 45, 47, 75, 176, 177, 237
Howard, Candice 43, 115
Howard, Deanna 47, 103, 191
Howard, Michael 103
Howe, Edward 121
Hrebenyak, Vanessa 11, 86
Hubbard, Kevin 103
Huber, Mark 103
Huber, Matthew 115
Hudson, Sean 123, 146
Hughes, Diane 41, 42, 43, 62, 65, 103, 106
Hughes, Jeannie 3, 41, 42, 44, 62, 75
Huish, Heather 92, 182
Huish, Rob 38, 92,146, 168
Hulburt, Megan 103
Humes, Christopher 103
Humphrey, Charles 115
Hunke, Cynthia 46, 92
Hunter, Amanda 115
Hunter, Donte 109
Hunter, Ebonee 65, 103
Hunter, Jemika 109
Hunter, Kayendra 92
Hurd, Carl 43, 103, 190
Hurd, Charles 103
Hurey, Rick 123, 190
Husek, David 92
Huttle, Matthew 75
Hydinger, Elaine 126
Hyzy, Kathleen 41, 47, 65, 103, 109
Ibekie, Michael 115
Ibekie, Tochukwu 86
Idzior, Bill 123
Ilievski, Elizabeth 91, 92
Ingram, Phillip 92
Inthisane, Daniel 92
Inthisane, Michael 86
Ivanovic, Mirka 92
Ivanovic, Mirko 75, 198
Ivey, Raven 115
Izzi, Dana 103
Jabkowski, Amanda 75
Jackomis, Kristine 41, 44, 92
Jackowski, Henry 51, 103
Jackowski, Jennifer 24, 92
Jackson, Arthur 46, 92
Jackson, Dezmone 115
Jackson, Franklin 103, 146
Jackson, Kyle 103
Jackson, Melissa 115
Jackson, Serreana 17, 75, 180
Jackson, Stephanie 103
Jacobs, Ashlie 92
Jagiela, Matthew 46, 92, 178, 190
James, Donnetta 86, 97
James, Tim 123
Jamison, TeNita 103
Janakievski, Nikolce 46, 103
Janeczko, Mike 92, 133
Janeski, Michelle 39, 75, 180, 181
Jansen, Jennifer 92, 152
Jasinski, Jon 41, 46, 47, 92, 148
Jefferson, Kendall 38, 42, 238
Jefferson, Nikisha 115, 180
Jemenko, Jason 86
Jenkins, Derrell 75
Jenkins, Kenisha 75, 180
Jennings, John 18, 123
Jennings, Kanesha 115
Jerrel, Gregory 121
Jeter, Christopher 103
Johnson, Corey 103
Johnson, Denise 109
Johnson, James 93, 190
Johnson, Jermaine 109
Johnson, Joey 11
Johnson, John 115
Johnson, Joseph 93
Johnson, Justin 93
Johnson, Mykah 44, 103
Johnson, Parker 46, 103
Johnson, Pecora 115
Johnson, Randy 40, 42, 43, 44, 115,148
Johnson, Sharea 115
Johnson, Tara 43, 115
Johnson, Tiffani 115
Johnson, Vince 103
Johnson, Wyatt 75
Johnson, Zachary 46, 115
Johnston, Curtis 123
Johnston, James 123
Johnston, Sharee 115
Joiner, Jacleen 103
Jolas, Kevin 5, 126, 168
Jolly, Marshay 46, 115, 164
Jolly, Nicole 93
Jones, Ashley 47, 115, 172
Jones, Brandin 115
Jones, Billy 103, 146
Jones, Claudia 75
Jones, Derrick 115
Jones, Deshunda 115
Jones, Erika 38, 41, 42, 93
Jones, Ernestine 93
Jones, Krystle 75, 103, 180, 181
Jones, Lauren 43, 115
Jones, Marcus 115
Jones Michael 75
Jones, Nitosha 97
Jones, Paula 103
Jones, Sharon 126
Jordan, Joseph 45, 103, 168, 178
Jorgensen, Debra 43, 75
Josleyn, Amanda 93
Jostes, Brian 103
Jostes, Laura 75, 160
Jovanovic, Bojan 115, 190
Jovanovich, Adam 103
Joyner, Dikah 39, 103
Joyner, Ernest 103
Judkins, Terry 76, 146
Julkes, Damien 103
Julkes, Jeffrey 93
Julkes, Kewanna 76
Jurisa, Joseph 45, 93, 178, 190
Jurissa, Joe 156
Jusko, Nicki 126
Juzwicki, Larry 126
Kaiser, Kirsten 76, 160, 236
Kadelak, Lisa 76, 182, 197
Kamanaroff, Christie 42, 76, 150, 166, 180, 190, 238
Karabetsos, Cynthia 86
Karamacoski, Dimce 93
Karamacoski, Jimmy 91
Kasarda, Jerrold 123
Kasarda, Jerry 38
Kasiak, Neil 18, 76

Kasper, John 115
Kaste, Amber 45, 115
Kaste, Amy 44, 93
Katsouros, Pauline 43, 115, 160, 186
Kaur, Gagandeep 45, 115
Kavois, Shelley 123
Kavois, Stacey 93, 176, 177
Kazonis, Nicholas 46, 115
Kedziora, Crystal 93
Keene, Jeremiah 76, 146
Keeton, Jamaal 46, 76, 170
Keeton, Napoleon 76
Kelley, Jonathon 115
Kelly, James 45, 103
Kelly, Jarrett 86, 178
Kelly, Jim 45
Kelly, John 1
Kelsey, Jonathan 93
Kendera, Jason 47, 115, 190
Kendrick, Marsheena 43, 63, 115
Kennedy, Griffin 115
Kennedy, Sarah 41, 44, 103, 176, 177
Kepchar, Donavan 46, 103
Kerr, Kevin 76
Kesler, Corey 103
Kester, Josh 26, 103
Kezy, Eugene 103
Kimble, Celesta 103
Kimbel, Erica 76
Kimble, Mia 76
Kimbrew, Amber 115
Kimbrough, Shannan 39, 47, 103
King, Nakesha 103
King, Tyannah 93
Kinsey, Michael 44, 115
Kiraly, Timothy 115
Kirby, Jamie 93
Kish, David 46, 76
Kish, Jacqueline 47, 115
Kish, Kimberly 103, 190
Kish, Melissa 41, 42, 76, 146, 199
Kistinger, Jamie 47, 115, 117
Klar, Shane 103
Klebs, Nicholas 93
Kleminski, Leslie 42, 76, 154, 155, 180
Klippel, Anthony 8, 103
Kljajic, Bojana 76, 235
Kljajic, Mirjana 76, 152, 235
Kloth, Jamisyn 93
Kluga, Jeffrey 115
Knezevic, Angie 127
Knezevich, John 103
Knight, Jim 103
Knight, Martina 93
Knobbe, Deirdre' 93
Knotts, Philip 38, 97
Koby, Barbara 123
Kochek, Aaron 47, 115
Kochek, Amy 47, 76
Koldus, Mike 86
Komenda, Amanda 76
Komenda, Mandy 39
Komenich, Kris 76
Komisarcik, Phillip 25, 115
Konefall, Eric 115
Koon, Jeanette 103
Koon, Jesse 115
Kors, Chris 45, 93
Kors, Megan 43, 115
Koselke, Joshua 115
Kosow, Patryk 115
Kosteski, Paul 16, 76
Koteles, Michael 76
Kourtesis, Irene 41, 55, 77, 234
Kourtesis, Kelly 115, 137
Koves, Kevin 27, 42, 45, 46, 51, 77, 239
Koves, Mark 45, 46, 63, 93
Kozel, Rosellen 123
Kozub, Kimberly 77
Kraska, Dana 93
Krizman, Kim 42, 45
Krizman, Kimberly 42, 45, 77
Krsak, Brandon 115
Krutz, Michael 123
Krysa, Matthew 103, 190
Kucik, Jillian 28, 93
Kucik, Ryan 103
Kurczynski, Paul 46, 103, 146, 168, 190
Kurth, Ron 164, 191
Kuzma, Shay 115, 152
Kuzminski, James 103
Kwell, Sherry 47, 103, 186
Kwiatkoski, Daniel 103, 190
Lackey, Laura 41, 65, 115, 191
Lacny, Megan 115, 180
Lagalo, Nicole 25, 115
Lain, Maggie 123
Lake, Bradley 103
Lake, Whitney 86, 170, 171
Lalic, Geoff 45, 190
Lalic, Geoffrey 103
Lambersie, John 38, 63, 123
Lamprecht, Derek 77
Lancaster, Matthew 93
Laorden, Paulo 45, 46, 103
Largent, Elizabeth 5, 77
Larimore, Riley 93, 146
Larson, Erika 115, 172, 173
Larson, Katie 77
Lashenik, Jacob 103
Lattin, Marcus 109
LaTulip, Breanna 77
Lawrence, Arnetta 115
Lazoski, Sondra 34, 93
Leanos, Erica 115
LeDuc, Judy 123
Lee, Daniel 115
Lee, David 39, 77
Lee, Jane 38, 40, 93
Lee, May 123
Lee, Ponya 115
Lee, Rebecca 115
Lee, Ronte 115
Leicht, Andrew 40, 42, 103, 178
Leicht, Thomas 115
Leiss, Mike 146
LeLoup, Joseph 103
Lenker, Sarah 77
Lennon, James 103
Leonara, Jennifer 77
Leonard, James 103
Leonos, Erica 43
Lesko, Erik 77
Lesko, Ian 115
Lesniak, Christopher 93
Lesniak, Julie 40, 41, 44, 88, 93, 148, 186, 187
Leus, Christine 47, 116, 154,172, 191
Levison, Doc 148, 186
Lewis, Adam 40, 45, 46, 47, 53, 104, 109
Lewis, Barshion 116
Lewis, Brandon 46
Lewis, Connie 123
Lewis, Dominique 97
Lewis, Donyell 104
Lewis, Dwana 116
Lewis, Jerwuan 104
Lewis, Kevin 45, 46, 47, 93
Lewis, Lanikka 93
Lewis, Roy 77, 146
Lewis, Zerubbabel 46, 104, 146
Lexsa, Daniel 93
Liddell, Ashley 93
Liess, Mike 77
Lindsey, Katie 43, 116
Lipp, Valerie 2, 38, 39, 93
Lipski, Jacqueline 38, 45, 104, 191
Littleton, Paul 121
Llano, Joe 15, 246
Llano, Joseph 93
Lofton, Ashley 116
Longacre, Rebecca 43, 113, 116
Longhi, Jim 77
Loo, Samantha 43, 116
Lopez, Cynthia 110, 116
Lopez, Daniel 104, 170
Lopez, Leah 77
Lopez, Lisa 93
Lopez, Maria 125
Lopez, Sonia 77
Lord, Michael 44, 77
Lordan, Paulo 170
Lott, Quinton 93
Lowe, Joseph 77
Lozevski, Dimitrija 116
Lubovich, Lindsey 22, 46, 47, 77
Lucus, Jim 182, 191
Lucas, Mark 123
Lucas, MaryKate 104
Lucas, Meredith 23, 30, 34, 42, 77, 158, 159, 174, 182, 241
Luehrs, Richard 104
Luevano, Nicholas 116
Luker, Derrick 133
Lumpkin, Crystal 104
Luttinen, Jesse 77
Luttinen, Joseph 47, 116
Lux, Anthony 123, 201
Lux, Kara 104, 166, 167
Lynn, John 46, 78
Lynn, Mitchell 93
Lynon, Armon 109
Mable, Michael 104
Mabon, Demetrius 104
Macarthy, Temadayo 146
Macarthy, Temidayo 46, 104
Macke, Fenton 184, 185
Mackovyak, Bob 124
Maddox, Terrie 78, 150, 151
Madison, Danny 78
Madison, Gracile 116
Madrigal, Servando 86
Madura, Daniel 104
Magallan, Naomi 104
Magee, Kelly 116
Malis, Zack 113, 116
Mallard, Jimmie 78, 247
Manara, Vincent 16, 38, 135
Mandich, Emily 41, 78, 104, 172
Mandon, Diane 124
Mann, Kimberly 104
Maple, Marc 46, 93, 156, 157, 178
Marcus, Andrew 78
Marcus, Brandon 46, 50, 78, 198
Marcus, Steven 46, 104, 190
Marek, Gary 104, 146
Maretich, Melissa 78
Marinich, Hilary 45, 57, 116
Marler, DJ 148
Marlow, Jacqueline 116
Marlow, Joseph 93
Marlow, Joshua 116
Marovich, Morgan 93, 164
Marquis, Joscelyn 104
Marsh, Jamie 116
Marshall, Garrett 97
Marshall, Lyniece 116

Martin, Chelssa 78
Martin, Chylah 78
Martin, Gabriel 104
Martin, Markeyta 39, 40, 93
Martin, Michaela 104, 186
Martinez, Yvonne 104, 146
Mason, Jennifer 116, 191
Massengill, Demetria 39, 43, 104
Massengill, Michael 116
Matczak, Eve 104
Matheny, Ja-Kay 116
Matheny, Michelle 116
Mathewson, Michelle 104
Mathis, Destiny 104
Mathis, Marcey 124
Matsey, Melissa 93
Matson, Christopher 104
Matson, Crystal 24, 116
Mauman, Meghan 93, 152
Mays, Mike 23, 42, 78 ,146, 147, 168, 169, 239
Mazur, Jonathan 87
McCann , Jennifer 93
McCarley , Bonita 93
McCarley, Tamia 78
McCarty, Courtney 116
McCarty , Rebecca 104
McCauley, Tiffany 116
McClain, Earl 46, 116, 178
McClendon, Schenell 38, 78
McClinton, Jason 116
McCollum , Edward 93, 133
McCoy, Ashley 116
McCoy, Heather 27, 31, 47, 104, 172
McDaniel , Desiree 104, 182, 183, 190
McDowell, Tearren 78
McFerrin, Karen 87
McGee, Brianne 78
McGee, Jason 42, 44, 78, 156, 178
McGee, Patrick 116
McGhee , William 104
McIntire, Amanda 35, 44, 55, 62, 104
McKinney, Sharde' 116
McKinley , Wade 34, 35, 104, 190
McKnight , Joe 93
McLaughlin , Jamie 104
McLaughlin , Michael 93
McLeod , Sophia 93
McLindon , Lauren 104
McLindon, Mike 18, 30, 78
McLucas, Anthony 93
McLucas, Larry 116
McMillan, Kristie 78, 135
McMullin, Kevin 104
McNeil, Ashley 41, 44, 104
McPhee, Maegan 41, 42, 93, 158
McVade, Brandon 40, 45, 46, 93, 148, 149
McVade, Mary 124
Meacham, Michele 78
Meadows, Danielle 93
Means, Shannon 104
Medanich, Melissa 104
Meding, Jeff 46, 93, 146, 178,179
Meekin, Brandon 92, 93
Megyesi, Mark 78, 150, 201
Mejia, Jayson 116
Menchaca, Irene 30, 78, 134, 135, 158, 159, 199, 201
Menchaca, Jessica 93
Meracle, Tracy 116
Merced, Rico 116
Merkelis, Michelle 39, 40, 42, 78, 239
Merritt, Angela 116
Merritt, Brian 79
Mesa, Stephanie 116
Messinio, Jeffery 116
Metlovski, Donnie 116
Miano, Courtney 43, 116
Michelin, Jason 116
Michelin, Nick 79, 146, 234
Midkiff, Ryan 46, 79, 170, 178
Mihal, Melissa 93
Mileos, Constantine 104
Mileos, Nick 109, 137, 170, 171, 190
Milhouse, Wilber 124
Milicevic, Adam 39, 93
Milicevic, Kristina 116, 191
Miljus, Steve 79, 146
Milledge, Joseph 93
Miller, Brandon 104
Miller, Carrie 41, 42, 124
Miller, Juston 79, 168, 239
Miller, Kara 44, 93
Miller, Kyle 109
Miller, Maurice 79, 178
Miller, Ryan 5, 40, 46, 116, 126
Milosavljevich, Nisa 127
Minchuk, Gretchen 79
Minnick, Jacob 93, 178
Minnick, Michael 156
Minor, Janice 124
Miodragovic, Melissa 87
Mirin, Alexander 93
Misialek, Staci 94
Mitchell, Laurie 47, 116, 141
Mitchell, Mallorie 47, 104
Mitchell, Nathaniel 94
Mitchell, Sean 28, 109
Mitro, Monica 116, 118
Mizimakoski, Joce 109
Mojica, Noel 109
Mola, Daniel 18, 79
Molchan, Danielle 94, 146, 172, 180
Molchan, Dawn 47, 79, 146, 172, 173
Monix, Debbie 124
Montalbano, Katherine 27, 31, 43, 116
Montemayer, Maria 126
Montemayor, Christie 116
Montemayor, Julie 47, 116, 172
Montgomery, Carl 104
Montgomery, Rameses 79, 146
Moody, Rachel 94, 160
Moolenar, Hugo 116
Moor, Amanda 104
Moore, Justin 116, 178
Moore, Michael 116
Moore, Ryan 44, 94
Mooring, Teara 116
Moravskij, Helen 127
Moravskij, Paul 127
Morawska, Michael 94
Moreno, Jeannelle 45, 57, 116, 172
Moreno, Jessica 38, 79, 240
Moreno, Ricardo 104
Morgan, Christopher 94
Morgan, Erin 94, 182
Morgan, Sally 124
Morlos, Nicole 104
Morris, Eric 104, 146, 190
Morris, Erik 94
Morris, Michelle 121
Morris, Nikisha 116
Morrone, Eric 94
Morrow, David 116, 117, 178
Morton, Justin 116
Mosley, Brandon 116, 146, 178
Mosley, Gerald 94, 178
Mosley, John 97
Muldenhaur, Katie 133
Mullins, Craig 116
Mulloy, Patrick 124
Munchenburg, Christopher 114, 116
Muro, Armalita 38, 42, 79, 154, 239
Murphy, Erica 79
Murphy, Keith 104, 178, 190
Murphy, Nicole 44, 104
Murphy, Tara 104, 191
Murphy, Victoria 79
Murray, Kathryn 87
Mustafa, Jennifer 44, 116, 191
Mustafa, Joseph 29, 94, 178
Muvceski, Mike 79, 42, 140, 199
Myers, Robert 45, 46, 47, 53, 124
Mygrants, Sean 15, 116
Mysliwiec, James 116, 190
Myszkowski, Angel 104
Nacovski, Pete 150
Nacovski, Vangel 104, 150
Nadolski, Matthew 104
Naglosky, John 104
Naglosky, Mariana 44, 94
Nahlik, Christopher 39, 46, 9794, 148, 188, 189
Najdzin, Rachel 79
Nalls, Alisha 104
Nason, Stephen 79, 247
Natywa, Lisa 25, 39, 43, 116
Naujokas, Jaclyn 44, 94
Naumowich, Kyle 116
Nava, Robert 104
Nava, Ryan 146
Nava-McCain, Arlinda 38, 104, 186
Nava-McCain, Claudia 104, 154, 180
Navarro, Monique 45, 104, 182, 190
Nawracaj, Christopher 117
Nay, Brian 117
Neal, Jaryn 47
Neal, Taryn 104
Neely, Nilaja 41, 44, 59, 94, 154
Neely, Raymond 117
Neidy, Jennifer 124
Nelson, Candace 87
Nelson, Eric 117
Nelson, Jamie 42, 79, 176
Nelson, Mindi 79
Neville, David 45, 46, 50, 94, 178, 179
Newell, Carol 29, 42, 117, 158, 190
Newell, Lisa 29, 45, 94, 158, 159
Neylon, Dee 24, 54, 55, 62

Neylon, Delia 41, 45, 65, 94
Neylon, Jack 41
Neylon, John 117
Nichols, Megan 114, 117, 191
Nicolini, Gail 124
Nienhaus, Brian 104, 178, 190
Nienhaus, Luke 94, 150, 178
Nieves, Ramon 87
Niksch, Bonnie 127
Niksch, Dan 29, 79, 170, 178, 179
Niksich, Andy 124, 140, 191
Nixon, Theresa 94, 176
Nolan, Eric 104, 150
Nolan, Jason 23, 79, 146
Norment, Keith 79
Nounou, Olivia 94
Nuses, Flora 30, 94
Nuzzo, Annalisa 87
Nuzzo, Lauren 18, 94
Nwabeke, Fubian 44, 80
Nyongani, Jason 117
O'Brien, Kathryn 39, 47, 104
O'Brien, Wayne 80
Odregon, Olivia 176
O'Hearn, Jason 105
Ojleska, Kristina 105
O'Keefe, Kelly 105, 191
O'Keefe, Shawn 117, 188
O'Keefe, Zack 46, 117
Obregon, Ashley 117, 191
Obregon, Olivia 94, 177
Okichich, Jenny 80, 146, 172
Olandezos, Manolis 91, 94
Olcum, Noyan 46, 105, 146
Olis, Craig 94, 184, 190
Olivares, Cory 117
Olton, Eric 124
O'Neil, Ariel 117, 180
O'Neil, Clifford 94
Onika-Brazys, Debbie 124
Onyeka, Adaku 65, 105, 190
Onyeka, Nnanna 46, 80
O'Reilly, Michael 94
Orozco, Laura 105
Ortega, Renee 42, 47, 80
Ortegon, Shirley 126
Ortiz, Christopher 117
Ortiz, Jaime 41, 44, 105
Ortiz, Ray 105
Ortiz, Shaun 94
Orton, Shannon 94
Orze, Jenny 80, 164, 182
Orzechowicz, Michael 80, 178
Osborne, Nathan 46, 51, 94
Osborne, Neil 46, 47, 117
Otano, Ana 117
Ovanek, Danielle 117, 160
Overall, William 117
Pace, Ebonée 39, 80, 180
Padberg, Daniel 45, 109, 190
Padberg, John 45, 47, 53, 80, 138, 139, 150, 151
Page, Tyrone 109
Page, Veronica 121, 191
Pagel, Amanda 94
Pajon, Nicholas 117
Palacios, Krystal 94
Palmateer, Taylor 19, 94
Palomo, Jesus 105, 117
Palomo, Myle 94
Panayi, Dena 80, 238
Panayi, Louis 117
Paniaguas, Melissa 43, 117, 191
Panning, Amanda 41, 47, 94, 191
Papamihalakis, Angela 105
Papp, Sarah 44, 94
Parker, Curtis 117
Parker, Lamonica 47, 105
Parker, Rick 124
Parks, Felicia 41, 44, 105, 191
Parrish, Beckie 47
Parrish, Jermell 94
Parrish, Rebecca 117
Paskash, Kristine 117, 191
Past, Brian 124, 150, 190
Patel, Kyle 117
Patel, Nisha 105
Patikas, Michael 80
Patrick, Marques 114, 117
Patterson, Joel 80, 97
Patterson, Nicole 47, 105
Patterson, Phillip 94
Paul, Nicole 105
Pavlovich, Cassandra 80, 172, 173
Pawl, Megan 105
Pawlowski, Andy 30, 80, 150
Payo, Clifford 94
Paz, Lex 117
Pearman, Zachary 26, 94, 190
Pearson, Clinton 80, 184
Peay, Gloria 105, 180
Peden, Eileen 45, 46
Peete, Christina 87, 164, 165
Peete, Jessica 105
Pena, Lauren 38, 94
Pepper, Tabitha 117
Perez, Claudia 94
Perez, Robert 42, 59, 80, 199, 201, 247
Perkins, Cheryl 38, 43, 60, 80, 236
Perkins, Cole 39, 105, 106, 148, 186
Perkins, Jared 148
Perkins, Kennedy 146
Perkins, Tyonka 117
Pero, Kelly 44, 94, 164, 180
Perry, Dave 46, 94
Perry, Kim 94
Perry, Tim 94
Perryman, Crystina 117
Peschke, Christina 47, 105
Peschke, Shane 80
Peters, Emily 47, 117, 172, 186
Peterson, Jessica 117
Peterson, Thomas 118
Petit, Nicolle 1, 118
Petras, Maryetta 2, 40, 124
Petrovich, Patrick 45, 105
Petruch, Amy 47, 80, 180
Petruch, Pauline 45, 105, 154, 180
Petry, Amy 13, 34, 105, 160
Petties, Nolan 118
Petty, Diane 43, 80
Petyko, Rob 168
Peynesta, Jamiah 118
Phelps, Donna 127
Phelps, Veroniqca 94
Phifer, Tommy 105, 133
Phillippe, Heather 41, 44, 105, 191
Phillips, Michele 31, 105
Pickett, Armel 105
Pickett, Camelia 44, 97
Pickett, Carmen 121
Pickett, Cermell 47
Pierce, Chad 105
Pierce, Deanne 124
Pierce, Jason 94, 178
Pierson, Brandon 39, 80
Pierson, Greg 124, 156
Pinnick, Malia 109
Pitcock, Ryan 124, 146, 180
Pitifer, Jace 118
Pitifer, Rachael 39, 46, 81
Pivovarnik, Amanda 94
Pivovarnik, Amy 30, 41, 42, 46, 81, 154
Plukas, Aimee 30, 94, 158, 159
Plukas, Joe 170
Plukas, Joseph 118
Plys, Jason 118, 190
Plys, Jennifer 45, 81
Polak, Brian 81
Polak, Jonathon 118, 178
Poling, Adam 46, 118
Poling, Ashley 47, 118
Polonczyk, Kelly 45, 56, 57, 81
Polster, Kelly 94, 174, 175
Ponce, Jennifer 29, 43, 105
Ponce, Joanna 87
Poropat, Josefina 124
Porter, Jill 105
Portis, Katrina 118
Poteet, Joe 97, 124, 127, 164
Potts, Kathryn 118
Potts, Tiffany 43, 118
Pounds, Nichole 45, 25, 81
Powell, Aaron 105, 146
Powell, Jeremy 118
Powell, Taleia 43, 118
Powers, Claude 94
Powers, Rachel 105
Poxon, Dolores 124
Prather, Steven 124
Pratt, Ronisha 94, 176
Pratt, Terry 124
Prentoski, David 118
Prentoski, Diana 118
Prentoski, Kate 106
Prentoski, Rob 81, 156, 157
Presley, Cathryn 94
Previs, Justin 118, 168
Price, David 81
Price, Erik 22, 44, 81, 148, 149
Price, Ronald 124
Price, Seneca 94
Price, Tania 124, 158, 159
Price, Trimell 118
Pride, Alexandria 47, 118
Pritchard, Nathan 42, 81, 170
Pritchett, Dante 81
Pritt, David 94
Procter, James 46, 81, 241
Procter, Teresa 124
Pruitt, Casady 22, 41, 44, 106, 148
Pucher, Gregory 94
Pumnea, Adam 46, 118
Pumnea, Lindsay 94
Qualitza, Randy 124, 168
Qualizza, Janis 124
Quenett, Joseph 106
Quintanilla, Diana 39, 94
Quirk, Kevin 118
Ragon, Danielle 94
Ragulen, Tiairra 44, 62, 106

Rainey, Geraldine 124
Ralson, Keith 121
Ralston, Robert 109
Rambert, Aleia 47, 81
Ramirez, April 19, 45, 94, 150
Ramirez, Daniel 81
Ramirez, Glen 106
Ramirez, Jennifer 38, 42, 44, 81, 154, 155, 241
Ramirez, Melissa 25, 39, 41, 42, 81, 236
Ramirez, Veronica 47, 81
Ramos, Ciro 106, 156, 157
Ramos, Renee 23, 81, 152
Ramos, Trevy 44, 101, 106, 177
Randolph, Lonnie 81, 146, 147
Randolph, Tim 46, 94, 170, 171
Rangel, John 81
Rangel, Pedro 43, 118
Rassbach, Mary 81
Rathburn, Danny 118
Ratkovich, Kyle 81
Reberg, Joshua 95
Reddy, Akhila 82
Reed, Cyleste' 118
Reed, George 82
Reed, Justin 95
Refner, Gregory 95, 133
Regan, Colleen 18, 47, 95
Reid, Jennifer 39, 43, 106
Reilly, Chas 41, 44, 63, 82
Reives, Vince 118
Remaley, Joel 118
Renehan, Heather 95, 165
Renner, Felecia 95
Renner, Shirley 124
Renta, Lisette 27, 106
Reyna, Amy 95
Reyna, Cynthia 82
Reyna, Joseph 95
Reynolds, Nathanael 40, 82
Rhenehan, Heather 164
Rhone, Mary 127
Ricard, Analicia 118
Ricchio, Amanda 95
Rice, Aaron 82
Richards, Jerelynn 106
Richards, Lindsey 118, 160, 161
Richards, Melissa 95
Richards, Robert 41, 95
Rico, Tracey 44, 82
Riddle, James 95, 156
Ristevski, Igor 106, 150
Ristevski, Riste 5, 87
Ristevski, Simon 95
Rivera, Deanna 106
Roaden, Samantha 95
Roames, Julia 106
Roberson, Sha'Ria 82
Roberts, Bill 146, 166
Roberts, Brendan 95
Roberts, Colin 46, 118
Roberts, Diane 167
Roberts, Dorian 118
Roberts, Mark 46, 106, 156
Roberts, Nick 95, 146, 147
Roberts, Tim 82
Roberts,Diane 166
Robertson, Amy 95
Robertson, Brandon 118
Robertson, Bryan 82
Robinson, Brenton 95
Robinson, Lionel 119
Robinson, Mark 127
Robinson, Melissa 39, 47, 106
Robinson, Michael 87
Robinson, Nathan 119
Robinson, Raikeesha 119
Robinson, Rebecca 95
Robison, Patricia 124
Roby, Tynisha 106
Rodbro, Eric 124, 146
Rodgers, Breeon 43, 46, 106
Rodriguez, Aaron 6, 41, 42, 87
Rodriguez, Donna 127
Rodriguez, Jeremiah 119
Rodriguez, Michael 95
Rodriguez, Michelle 121
Rodriguez, Myra 95
Rodriguez, Sandra 95
Rodriguez, Sergio 95
Rodriguez, Vanessa 106
Rodriquez, Arturo 95
Rogers, Airielle 119, 121
Rogers, Artie 124, 146
Rogers, Breon 61
Rogers, Sharise 119
Rogers, Tarra 106
Rogers, Vincent 119
Rogina, Teralyn 119
Roldan, Derek 63, 119
Roman, Felix 95
Romeo, Ryan 45, 47, 95
Romero, Vincent 82
Rooda, Dave 43, 47, 109, 146, 170
Rooda, David 106, 171
Rose, Catherine Freeman 72
Rosenbaum, Mark 124
Ross, Christopher 119
Ross, Gregory 40, 42, 46, 119
Ross, Lisa 40, 95, 152, 172, 173
Roth, Jeffrey 31, 41, 42, 46, 82
Rothgeb, Samantha 119
Rothstein 146
Rothstein, Maya 42, 44, 95
Rounds, Cassandra 82
Rousis, Athanasios 106
Roy, Keith 27, 82
Ruckman, Carey 95, 176
Ruder, Aimee 42, 47, 82, 154, 155, 237
Ruisard, Amber 82
Ruiz, Amanda 119
Rumph, Emrielle 95
Rund, Elisabeth 106
Rund, Grace 119
Rund, Lis 43
Ruschak, Jennifer 39, 45, 95
Russell, Crown 119
Russell, Jeri 119
Russell, Melissa 95
Rutledge, Amanda 106
Rysiewicz, Amanda 95
Saberniak, Kevin 119
Saberniak, Scott 119
Sablan, Antonio 101, 106
Sablan, Edward 106, 170
Sablan, Tony 170
Sabo, Carla 95
Sager, Bret 38, 40, 42, 45, 82
Sager, Kevin 45, 46, 95
Sajdera, Tiffany 39, 41, 42, 82, 148
Sak, Ashley 106
Salas, Jeremy 119
Salas, Nicole 119
Salyers, Vicky 127
Salazar, Danny 82
Samson, Kasey 38, 41, 45, 54, 82, 128, 154
Samson, Kelly 38, 39, 43, 95
Samuels, April 45, 114, 119
Samuels, Larry 106
Samuels, Stephanie 95
San Miguel Nicole 106
Sanchez, Jessica 106
Sanchez, Lionel 119
Sanchez, Melissa 45, 95, 164, 165
Sanchez, Rosalinda 43, 119
Sanders, Bonnie 124
Sandifer, Troy 119
Sandifer, Wilton 106
Santamaria, Vanessa 82
Santeramo, Kate 106
Santos, Anayeli 106
Savage, Tito 43, 46, 61, 107
Savage, Virtina 46, 119
Savin, Jonathan 46, 119
Savka, Amanda 107
Sawyer, Katie 46, 47, 95
Sawyer, Victor 82
Sayger, Barry 119
Schaab, Steven 16, 83
Schaab, Tara 119
Schafer, Shannon 95
Scheffer, Mary 127
Schicota, Theresa 174
Schilling, Lisa 38, 124
Schilling, Pam 124, 127
Schmidt, Joe 66
Schmuck, Violet 124
Schoenecker, Kristina 107
Scholtens, Krystle 47, 95
Schooler, Bryan 119
Schreiber, Michael 119
Schroers, Daniel 83
Schroers, Steven 83
Schubert, Elissa 124
Schubert, Theresa 107
Schulz, Kevin 83
Schwent, Jessica 119
Sciaccotta, Theresa 92, 95
Scott, Brandon 95
Scott, Breanne 119
Scott, Joseph 119
Scott, Kristen 95
Scott, Melanie 126
Scott, Nikisha 119
Scott, Zachary 107
Sczurko, Michael 95
Sczurko, Mike 46
Seabrook, Josh 10, 11, 34, 95
Seagraves, Julie 34, 35, 95, 152, 153, 164
Seat, Goran 107
Seaver, Beverley 41, 55, 124
Seay, Anthony 95
Segvich, Dyann 107
Selmon, Patrice 39, 47, 107
Semovski, Tony 83, 150, 151
Semper, Scott 127
Sepulveda, Sharon 95
Severson, Eric 119
Shalk, Ron 47
Shapley, Kim 106, 107, 158
Sharp, Brandon 43, 119
Shawver, Kathy 83
Shawver, Melissa 83
Shea, Dustin 83
Shea, Kyle 95
Shelby, Armon 119
Shelhart, Scott 43, 119
Shelly, David 95
Shelton, Jason 83, 156
Shelton, Marque 107
Shelton, Tiffany 39, 83
Sherwood, Norman 95

Shoemaker, James 83
Shoshoo, Mary 124
Shotts, Jessica 42, 83
Sickles, Lothar 83
Sienicki, Stephen 95
Sierra, Daniel 107
Sierra, Jennifer 95, 174, 175
Sierra, Peter 87, 170
Sikoski, Vangel 107
Silva, Tabitha 83
Simanson, Kelly 43, 119
Simones, Dan 83
Simpson, Amanda 107
Simpson, Michael 107
Simpson, Sean 107, 146
Sims, Anthony 119
Sims, Mario 95
Simunjak, Chris 83
Singer, Justin 107, 170
Skalba, Dale 107
Skorupa, Megan 83, 166, 167
Slater, Deshona 119
Slavik, John 44, 83
Slivka, Jennifer 44, 107, 146, 172
Smalfus, Stefanie 87
Smiley, Keith 95
Smith, Aeriol 119
Smith, Aleeza 95
Smith, Christian 95
Smith, Courtney 14, 19, 83
Smith, Darius 46, 107
Smith, David 119
Smith, Janice 26, 83, 146
Smith, Jason 119
Smith, Jessie 119
Smith, Jonathan 107
Smith, Kasee 39, 107
Smith, Kaye 39, 43, 46, 47, 60, 107
Smith, Kendra 119
Smith, Kim 42, 83, 160
Smith, Lydia 44, 95
Smith, Matthew 107
Smith, Nina 95
Smith, Skyler 119
Smith, Tiffany 107
Smoljan, Scott 83
Snelling, John 119
Snelson, Joseph 87
Snelson, Timothy 119
Snyder, Allison 45, 119
Snyder, Chad 95
Snyder, Kristen 41, 87
Sobierajski, Megan 43, 119
Sohacki, Christopher 84
Sohacki, Sean 107
Sokolowski, Aaron 114, 119
Solivais, Veronica 107
Solomon, Lindsey 119
Soltys, Edward 95
Somers, Dawn 84
Sopko, Laura 44, 107, 152
Sorokas, Katie 107
Sotiroski, Aleksandar 107
Sotiroski, Sase 84
Sovich, Thomas 95, 146
Sowards, Jazmine 107
Spaliaras, David 107
Spangler, Stephanie 84
Spann, Denairo 87
Sparger, Anthony 95
Sparger, Nicole 45, 107, 166
Spencer, Derron 46, 119
Spiro, Irene 41, 124
Spitzer, Tom 34, 35, 124, 152, 164
Spivey, Severina 46, 47, 84
Sprague, Nathaniel 119
Spurlock, Mark 44, 107
Srbinoski, Nikola 107
St Clair Nicholas 119
Stackert, Sarah 96
Staffeld, Debra 124
Stafford, Craig 40, 125
Staley, Scott 40, 125
Stallings, Margaret 42, 43, 125, 136
Stanford, Charlie 127
Stanford, Jean 125
Stanley, Erick 84
Stanley, Justin 45, 119, 141
Stanley, Tara 119
Stanzione, Kenny 107
Starkey, Joe 160
Starkey, Jonathan 119
Stasiak, Jillian 84
Stath, Donna 125
Stefanovic, Zoran 127
Stegall, Fontaine 43, 102, 107, 176, 177
Steiner, Evelyn 40, 125
Stemple, Jeremy 118, 119
Stephen, Becky 46, 47, 107, 172
Stephens, Thomas 96
Sterley, Lora 107
Stetson, Adam 107, 170
Stevens, Josh 14
Stevens, Thomas 87
Stewart, Jacob 107
Stewart, Kyle 119
Stewart, Melissa 96, 176
Stewart, Sharonda 84
Stickels, Christopher 119
Stillson, Amy 84
Stites, Rebecca 41, 84
Stoffle, Richard 84, 146, 240
Stofko, Anthony 101, 107, 148, 170
Stoica, Brittney 39, 47, 107, 172
Stojakovich, Chuck 44, 84
Stojanovski, John 96
Stokes, Delaun 96
Stompor, Nicole 42, 119
Stone, Matthew 107
Stoner, Tim 46, 96
Stout, Anthony 119
Strange, Anna 107
Street, Aimee 44, 107
Street, Eric 107
Street, Nathan 47, 120
Street, Sara 118, 120, 137
Strehler, Keith 87
Strehler, Tina 107
Strickland, Jarmaine 96
Strickland, Lamar 120
Strom, Daniel 117, 120
Strom, David 96
Strom, Lauren 41, 107
Strong, Casi 44, 107
Stupic, Ann 96, 152, 153
Stupic, Cathryn 43, 117, 120
Sturm, Jeffrey 120
Styles, Marcus 84
Suave, Rico 43
Suetrong, Mali 44, 84
Suggs, Ashley 38, 44, 59, 84, 174
Suggs, Daniel 109
Suggs, Jodi 43, 120, 121
Sulich, Michelle 125
Sullivan, Christopher 96, 146
Sullivan, Samantha 41, 107
Sumichrast, Christel 43, 120
Sumichrast, Steven 107
Summar, Heather 109
Summar, Shawn 121
Summers, Stephen 96
Surer, Jeffrey 107
Suzuki, Priscilla 84
Sweeney, Jamie 107
Sweeney, Nicole 23, 30, 38, 41, 42, 84, 174, 175
Swickard, Kelly 47, 107
Swierc, Andrew 47, 96
Swisher, Jillian 2, 84
Sylva, Meagan 107
Synder, Chad 146
Szala, Shannon 107
Szany, Aubrey 39, 45, 84, 154
Szany, Elise 46, 120, 172
Szczerba, Joe 168
Szczerba, Joseph 120
Szczerba, Margaret 96, 153, 152
Szczerba, Melissa 125, 132
Szot, Kathleen 41, 44, 58, 107, 14
Tafoya, Jesus 87
Taha, Mariam 40, 125
Talbot, Jeffrey 84
Taleff, Natalia 120
Tanis, Katie 107, 166, 167
Tanis, Philip 96
Tansil, Tanya 43, 120
Tants, Richard 47, 107
Tatum, Lacretia 84
Taylor, Antheny 107
Taylor, Ashly 107
Taylor, Craig 87
Taylor, James 109
Taylor, Raymond 120
Taylor, Steven 87
Teamer, James 120
Teeter, Dave 125
Tegtman, Adam 107, 146
Terdoest, Christopher 107
Ternes, Megan 96
Ternes, Rebecca 43, 120
Terpstra, Richard 125
Terrebonne, Paul 107
Thien, Alexander 120
Thien, Jon 108
Thomas, Giovan 108
Thomas, Joseph 96, 168, 169
Thomas, Kaleena 96
Thomas, Koree 38, 84
Thomas, Ron 126
Thomas, Sarah 108, 146
Thomason, Keith 85
Thomason, Kevin 120
Thompson, Samaria 38, 42, 85, 135, 141
Thompson, Sha'Tonn 96
Throw, Jenna 108
Tipton, Ashley 96
Todd, Jessica 39, 85
Todd, Robert 108
Tokarski, Christopher 47, 120
Toledo, Israel 85
Tolhuizen, Hank 45
Tolhuizen, James 108
Tomko, Nicole 85
Toney, Andre 108, 156
Torrence, Antunette 85
Torrence, Lee 108
Torrence, Marvin 46, 47
Torres, Eddie 114, 120
Torres, Vincent 108
Toth, Robert 120
Trajkovski, Dragan 120
Trajkovski, Marina 85, 135
Trama, Jeffrey 108
Trapane, Christopher 102, 108
Travline, Anthony 120
Trimble, Julie 44, 108, 173
Trkulja, Mirjana 96

Troupos, Andrew 108
Tucker, Genevieve 47, 96
Tucker, Shaina 39, 44, 108
Tuggle, Jh'rome 120
Turner, Randall 120
Turner, Ryan 108
Turner, Sarah 96
Turoci, Jennifer 17, 25, 85
Turoci, Steven 85
Tyrikos, Evelyn 91, 96

U

Ullmann, Nick 44
Underhill, Ryan 96
Upshaw, John 96
Urban, William 120
Uremovich, David 120, 148, 149
Uribe, Rosa 85
Ursery, Ivan 108
Utofka, Joe 39, 85
Uzelac, Christine 108

V

Vafiadis, Kyle 108
Vaillancourt, Kristyn 96
Valant, Matt 96
Valdez, Arnie 45, 108
Valdez, Marisa 40, 42, 46, 85, 242
Valdez, Sara 38, 46, 47, 108, 109
Valencia, Gregoria 87
Valentin, Jeton 108
Valle, Noel 96
Van Der Woude, Kelly 96
Van Winkle, Kyle85
Vanderkolk, Justin 108
Vanek, Steven 120
Varela, Joy 127
Vargas, Christopher 108
Vargas, Jolynn 120
Vargas, Melissa 96, 166, 174
Vargo, Amanda 38, 44, 85, 237
Vargo, Jeffrey 96
Vartanoff, Lisa 44, 96
Vasaitis, Ashley 96
Vasileski, Alex 16, 85
Vassallo, Judy 126
Vaughn, Laura 47, 108
Vawter, Marissa 40, 47, 96, 152
Vazanellis, John 108, 137
Vechey, Danny 96
Vechey, Thomas 120, 168
Vega, Adriana 109
Vega, Edward 120
Vela, Virginia 85
Velazco, Melissa 45, 120
Veldman, Stephen 120
Velez, Jessica 96
Verdeyen, Amanda 96
Verduzco, Kimberly 120
Vermillion, James 125
Vesa, Edward 46
Vickerstaff, Raymone 46, 120
Villareal, Richard 96, 121
Villareal, Stephanie 120
Villarreal, Daniel 83
Villarreal, Erika 38, 96
Villars, Jayson 92, 96
Villasenor, Luis 120
Vinson, Antonette 120
Vinson, Antonio 120
Virgo, Jon 45, 85
Von Behren Carol 27, 39, 125
Vorgias, Nick 120
Vrotny, Kyle 22, 41, 44, 59, 85, 150
Vurva, Ryan 120

W

Wachholz, Anthony 120
Wade, Charles 108
Wade, Duane 87
Wade, Lucius 120
Wadley, Melissa 120, 172
Wadley, Michael 108, 170
Wagonblast, April 85
Wahlman, Cindy 41, 96
Wahlman, Robert 120, 168
Waldrop, Brandon 44, 108
Walker, Brandon 87
Walker, Jerraé 87
Walker, Kenneth 120
Walker, Matt 125, 152
Walker, Nathan 96
Wallace, Calvin 85
Walls, Cheri 108
Walls, Christina 39, 85
Walls, Marissa 120
Walsh, Holly 39, 86
Walter, Nicholas 108
Wampler, Derek 45, 96
Ward, Desiree 108
Ware, Andre 120
Wargo, Jon 41, 45, 120
Warren, Jane 158
Warus, Jonathan 40, 41, 42, 47, 120
Warus, Lindsay 108
Washingon, Shawn 108
Washington, Ernest 108
Washington, Jaznelle 120
Watkins, Joshua 120
Watson, Julie 86
Watson, Megan 120
Watson, Melissa 108
Watthanapha, Waricha 108
Watts, Amy 2, 22, 30, 44, 59, 86
Waxton, Rodney 108
Weall, Natalie 25, 120
Weatherington, Leah 96
Weaver, Darrin 120
Wedding, Amy 120
Weems, Ashley 86
Weinek, Jessica 47
Wells, Zachary 125, 146
Werth, Joshua 108
Wesley, Tiffany 44, 96
Westbury, Patrick 120
Westphal, Meghan 120
White, Martell 120
White, Tiffany 86, 152
Whittet, Colleen 120
Wieneke, Jessica 108
Wilbanks, Roy 39, 96
Wilburn, Jason 108
Wilkerson, Sarina 96
Williams, Aaron 120
Williams, Adam 108
Williams, Brandon 96
Williams, Brittany 102, 108, 152, 153
Williams, Bryan 108
Williams, Bryon 34, 96
Williams, Carlette 96
Williams, Casby 38, 43, 96
Williams, Chauntese 38, 43, 108
Williams, Christopher 86, 120
Williams, Dontreal 108
Williams, Guinetta 108
Williams, Jason 96, 146
Williams, Jerry 120
Williams, John 87
Williams, Kevin 96
Williams, Khalisa 121
Williams, Lindsey 118, 121
Williams, Salena 96
Williams, Tera 108
Williamson, Sally 125
Willison, Debbie 126
Willison, Karyl 39, 86
Wills, Lindsey 43, 108
Wills, Whitney 86
Wilson, Adam 86, 146
Wilson, Amy 44, 96
Wilson, Breznee 121
Wilson, Davriana 43, 108
Wilson, Madeline 125
Wilson, Michelle 125
Wiltgen, Brittany 121
Wimbish, J.R. 46
Wimbish, Thomas 87
Wimmer, Clint 108, 146, 168
Wimmer, Cori 44, 87, 146
Winn, Gregory 96
Wirtz, Timothy 96, 133
Wise, Brandon 96
Wise, Elexas 43, 108
Wise, Keegan 121
Wisner, Christopher 12, 46, 51, 96
Witter, Ashley 121
Wojtysiak, Amanda 38, 43, 108
Wolfe, Erin 96, 182, 183
Wood, Carol 126
Wood, Kara 108
Wood, Michelle 96
Woodfaulk, Courtney 121
Woods, Brieonna 108
Woods, Candice 47, 108
Woods, Chuck 46
Woods, John 108
Woodward, Brad 108, 146, 168, 169
Woolley, Michelle 87
Woolwine, Crystal 39, 87
Worsham, Bernard 46, 121
Woynaroski, Teresa 96
Woynaroski, Tracy 40
Wright, Brandi 87
Wright, Chardaa 43, 108
Wright, David 121
Wright, Saundra 121
Wright, Tim 87
Wusik, Stephanie 47, 96
Wydro, Daniel 121

Y

Yack, Brian 96, 146, 147
Yagelski, Jason 87
Yagelski, Jerred 121
Yarrington, Jeremy 121
Yates, Tiffany 87
Yelton, Jeff 125, 146
Yiatras, Anastasia 87
Yiatras, Antonios 121
Yoldash, Joshua 121
York, Jesse 43, 108
York, LaDonna, 46
York, Ladonna 97
Young, Antoine 121
Young, James 19, 125
Yurechko, Samantha 43, 121

Z

Zaiko, Jennifer 108
Zakula, Zivan 121
Zalewski, Adam 121
Zamora, Linda 87
Zamora, Louis 108
Zaremba, Craig 44, 59, 97
Zarik, Jennifer 97
Zdych, Brian 97
Zelisko, Brian 46, 108
Zelisko, Mike 41, 42, 46, 55, 87
Zembala, Larry 146
Zheng, Shifeney 121
Zimmerman, Dave 125, 148
Zimmerman, Jessica 46, 108, 148
Zowodni, Jody 39, 176
Zurek, Ryan 108
Zweig, Jeffrey 41, 44, 121



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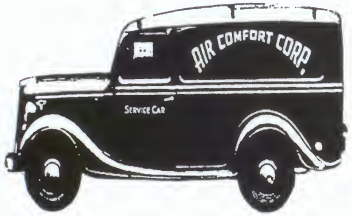
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Congratulations, Irene



Irene Kourtesis

May you succeed in all you do.

We're proud of you.

Good Luck!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Kelly

Nick, Good Luck and Congratulations!



Nick Michelin

Love,
Mom, Dad
and Jason

We're proud of you, Ed



May Your Future Be Bright

Love,
Mom, Dad and Melody



Edgard Gomez

We're proud of you, David



Challenges without the wind's resistance, an eagle would never fly. Follow your Heart!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Eric



David Beale



Because of you two, I've laughed a little harder, cried a little less, smiled a lot for no reason. Because of you two, I felt the warm embrace of a good and lasting friendship...Because of you two, my world is a happier, nice place.





Mirjana and Bojana Kljajic

We had a lot of great memories sister, like the day you were born and Mom and Dad brought you home from the hospital...stuff like that!

Quit copying me!

Everytime I look at you two I think about how much I love you...thats why I am always looking at you.
Love, Mom and Dad





We're proud of you, Kirsten



Congratulations
and best wishes.
We know you'll continue
to do well in life!
We love you lots!

Love,
Mom,Frank,YiaYia, and Denny



Kirsten Kaiser

Congratulations, Cheryl



Cheryl Perkins

We're proud
of your accomplishments.
Love,
Mom, Dad,
and Owen

Congratulations, Melissa



Melissa Ramirez

We're proud
of your accomplishments.
Love,
Mom, Dad,
and Jessica

Congratulations, Joe



Joe Brazeau

We're proud of you.
Love,
Mom, Dad,
Samantha, and Nanny

We're proud of you, MaryAnn



You've come a long way.
May the rest of your
life be successful.

Love,
Mom & Dad



MaryAnn Fotis

Congratulations,
Amanda



Amanda Vargo

If you can dream it,
then you can do it!
Love,
Mom & Dad

Laura,
You' ve always made us so proud.



Laura Horwith

May all your
dreams come
true.

Love,
Mom and Dad

Congratulations, Ashlie



"Comelax"
It's only college.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Katie

Ashlie Coleman



We're proud of you, Aim-A-Roo!



Congratulations

Love,
Mom, Dad and Bryan

Aimee Ruder



Congratulations, Kendall



Kendall Jefferson

We're proud
of you.
Love,
Granddaddy,
Grandma, Mommy Ruder, Aim-A-Roo,
Bryan and Daddy Ruder

Congratulations, Dena!



Dena Panayi

Good Luck in all that
you do.
WE LOVE YOU!

Love,
Yia-Yia, Popou Vossos
and Yia-Yia Sisamis

We're proud of you, Christie



Keep reaching for the stars, and your dreams will come true!

Love,
Mom & Dad



Christie Michelle Kamanaroff

Congratulations, Aaron



We're proud of your accomplishments.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Jared



Aaron Byczko

Congratulations, Juston



"Miller Time!"
You've always made us
so proud
and given us great joy.

We love you.
Mom, Mike, Kara Michaela,
Grandma and Grandpa Helmer



Juston Miller

Congratulations, Armalita



Armalita Marie Muro

You've been an awesome
student and a wonderful daughter.
Love,
Mom & Pop

Congratulations, Kevin



Kevin Koves

We're very proud
of you!
Good luck with you future plans.
Love,
Mom & Dad

Congratulations, Michelle



Michelle Merkelis

We're very proud
of you.
Love,
Mom, Dad
and Renee

We're proud of you, Mike



CONGRATULATIONS
on 8th in the STATE.
Keep shooting to the stars -
Dreams do come true.
You're Awesome!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Megan



Mike Mays

To our princess Jessica.



Jessica Moreno

Congratulations!
We're proud of you.

Love,
Mom & Dad

Congratulations, Erin



Erin Binkley

May all your dreams come true.
God bless you.

Love,
Mom and Dad

May All Your Dreams Come True!



All our love-
Mom, Nana and Gran



Kyle Vrotny

We're so proud of you, Rich

Your future is bright.
We're sure you'll continue
to shine.

Love,
Mom & Dad





Richard Stoffle

Kortina, Reach for the stars!



Kortina Gates

Always put God first in your life, and all your dreams will be fulfilled.

Love,
Mom

Congratulations, Jennifer



Jennifer Ramirez

Love,
Mom and Dad

Congratulations, Jimmy

Job well done!
Good luck in all you do.



Love,
Mom,Dad & Carolina



Jimmy Procter

We're proud of you, Meredith

Congratulations.
We are
so proud
of you!



We Love you,
Mom & Dad



Meredith Lucas

Congratulations
Marisa Cristina Valdez
Valedictorian
Class of 2001





Lots of Love,
Mom, Dad & Sara

The Brown Family • Lauren Beth Fruenling • The Kamanaroffs • The Birminghams

The Procters • McVade Family • Ryan Midkiff • Kay Ross • Angelo Stath • Tara Stanley

As a community, Merrillville is full of diversity. Both people and places have one thing in common — they are all different. All walks of life seem to converge into one community, and that makes Merrillville unique. The same can be said of the high school. Merrillville High School is like a small community itself, mirroring the diversity, just as the town does. Each group of students is exceptional and distinct in their own way. This book, Unique Diversity, strives to show the extraordinary make-up of our community and school. From athletes to thespians, from book worms to class clowns, the staff of Unique Diversity hopes to depict our community as we see it — unique and diverse.

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Brandon Walker, '01, talks to Mrs. Evelyn Ennsmann about his college search, as he uses the computer in the Guidance Office. Mrs. Ennsmann shows that she truly cares about what the students do.





Mrs. Evelyn Ennsmann helps make donuts to advertise a new food in the cafeteria.



Mrs. Evelyn Ennsmann shows that being a principal does not always have to be serious business. Here she shares a few laughs with a friend.



Saying Good-bye

Mrs. Evelyn Ennsmann leaves Merrillville High School this year, but she will not be forgotten by the people she has touched.

"I'll miss the students the most," said Mrs. Evelyn Ennsmann. "I'll miss the students asking if I need any help when my hands are full, or just asking if I need any help."

During the three years that Mrs. Ennsmann had been here, she has strived to teach all the students to show respect. Setting up the respect awards and appearing on PNN morning announcements occasionally, Mrs. Ennsman has taken an active role in students' lives.

"Respect is a good theme," Assistant Principal Mr. Dave DeMuth said. "She used different ideas to get through to the students."

"We're all sorry to see her go, I've learned a lot while working under her. She's hard but fair," Mr. DeMuth said.

Mrs. Ennsmann said she has made students her priority during her tenure as principal.

"I'm most proud of the fact that students know that I care about them, that I listen to their voices," said Mrs. Ennsmann. "I've tried to make the school a safe environment so that the students can learn."

Making herself available to students, Mrs. Ennsmann was known to stop by classes randomly to talk with students and see how the learning process was going. Mrs. Ennsmann truly believes that 95 percent of the student body strives to be the best that they can. She wants the best for all the students that have walked through the doors of Merrillville High School this year.

—Megan Brown

Mrs. Evelyn Ennsmann gives her final commencement speech to the Class of 2001.



Joe Llano, '02, waves to the camera while on the photography field trip to Hidden Lake Park.

Seniors sit in the lecuture hall for one of the last meetings they were required to attend before Commencement.



Jett Roth, '01, and Amanda Diehl, '01, try to listen attentively in class even though their minds are wandering elsewhere. Chances are they're thinking about life after graduation.

Unique Diversity



Katherine Castro, '01, enjoys a game of pool at Inman's Recreation Center. The seniors spent their day participating in activities such as go-karts, bowling, laser tag, and arcade games.



Cori Wimmer, '01, and Robert Perez, '01, take a moment to walk through the halls during their last few days at MHS to set a memory.

Jimmie Mallard, '01, prepares to introduce the next song for PNN radio and instead stops to pose for the camera.

Working the controls in the production room, Stephen Nason, '01, contributed a lot of time and effort to the senior video for this year.

One-year old "Bookstore Baby" Aubrie Birmingham is the daughter of Julie and Scott, who have been volunteering for three years in the school bookstore.

Jenny Duggins, '03, and Cecelia Bruce, '03, take time out from studying to embrace in a friendly hug.

Editor's Note



When I stop to think about this year, the things that come to mind are mostly deadlines, pressure and lots of stress. I came into yearbook this year with many mixed emotions, but mostly anticipation. Knowing that I had very little experience, and my staff even less, really scared me.

Since I hadn't been used to taking charge of anything like this before I was nervous beyond belief. But once we all got going and made goals, everything seemed to fall into place. I'm happy that I was given the chance to be a part of something so memorable that people will be looking back on in years to come.

I want to thank Mrs. Procter for all the effort she put into this yearbook. This was a great learning experience on responsibility for me and I wouldn't have gotten this far without her help and patience.

There is no way I'll ever forget the times I had with my staff. I want to thank them for sharing this experience with me. I had a blast even if I didn't show it all the time. I especially want to thank Ricky Holtz for putting up with me and for all of his help in meeting deadlines.

I also want to thank my fellow journalists on *the Mirror* staff for their input, ideas and help.

Many people helped with the production of the *Merrillvue* and I wish to express my appreciation to them. I believe that the support and the cooperation from various and unique people helped pull our book and theme together more effectively. Special thanks to Christina Damjanoski, who needs recognition for the amount of time that she spent keeping yearbook records organized.

It truly showed that diverse people can all work together and create something unforgettable.

Colophon

Unique Diversity is the theme of the 2001 *Merrillvue*. Volume 76 was produced at Merrillville High School by Editor-in-chief MaryAnn Fotis under the direction of adviser Mrs. Teresa Procter and the fourth period yearbook class.

MHS is a member of Quill and Scroll, Columbia Scholastic Press Association and Indiana High School Press Association.

The Walsworth Publishing Company published the *Merrillvue*. The Walsworth sales representative is Mrs. Valerie T. Tanke. The staff used Adobe Pagemaker, Adobe Photoshop and Microsoft Word to produce the book. The staff used three fonts: Baskerville, Avant Guard and Herman.

John Bir of John Giolas Photographers took pictures of seniors, clubs, organizations and sports. Sergio Rodriguez, Melissa Maretich, Jenny Leonard and Adam Milicevic also took pictures of activities throughout the school year.

Lifetouch Prestige Portraits shot underclass and faculty photos.

The cost of the Merrillvue was $25 for early orders. Mid-year orders were $40. By the end of the year, orders were $45. Any extra books were sold for $50. Six hundred copies of the book were ordered.

The staff expresses special thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Valerie T. Tanke for all of her help; John and Jeannette Bir, Carla Dabis and Stephanie Max from Giolas Photographers; the Technology Department; the Athletic Department; Ricky Holtz and *the Mirror* staff; all of the school secretaries for their help; and Mr. Tom Spitzer and his staff at PNN for their help in making announcements and producing commercials to advertise the 2001 Merrillvue.



The 2001 Merrillvue Staff

(Front Row) Liz Balcerak, MaryAnn Fotis, Dena Penayi, Angela Escobedo, Irene Kourtesis. (Second Row) Megan Brown, Meredith Lucas, Christina Damjanoski, Meghan Mauman, Joe Mustafa. (Back Row) NayNay Bagwell, Jessica Moreno, Ray Dix, Jayne Horan and Kortina Gates. Not Pictured--Dee Williams and Adam Milicevic.